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CRUISERWEIGHT Ch: James Toney 1-Nate Miller 2-Marcelo Dominquez 3-Uriah Grant 4-Robert Daniels 5-Fabrice Tiozzo 6-Kenny Keene 7-Kenny Murphy 8-Chris Eubank 9-Don Diego Poeder 10-Tiwon Taylor

LT. HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Drake Thadzi 1-Roy Jones Jr. 2-Dariusz Michalczewski 3-Montell Griffin 4-William Guthrie 5-Fredrik Alvarez 6-Graciano Rocchigiani 7-Virgil Hill 8-Jose Luis Rivera 9-Michael Nunn 10-Lou Del Valle

SP.MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Mads Larsen 1-Steve Collins 2-Frank Liles 3-Robin Reid 4-Joseph Kiwanuka 5-Roberto Duran 6-Charles Brewer 7-Henry Wharton 8-Vinny Pazienza 9-Jorge Castro 10-Omar Sheika

MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Bernard Hopkins 2-Julio Cesar Green 3-Keith Holmes 4-Dana Rosenblatt 5-William Joppy 6-Freeman Barr 7-Paul Vaden 8-Quincy Taylor 9-Lonnie Bradley 10-Jerry Brown

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Felix Trinidad 2-Laurent Boudaouani 3-Winky Wright 4-Raul Marquez 5-Terry Norris 6-Julio Cesar Vasquez 7-Kieth Mullings 8-Hector Camacho 9-Nick Rupa 10-Anthony Stephens

WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Jose Rivera 1-Felix Trinidad 2-Oscar De La Hoya 3-Ike Quartey 4-Pernell Whitaker 5-Oba Carr 6-Jose Luis Lopez 7-Michael Loewe 8-Patrick Charpentier 9-Vernon Forrest 10-Peter Malinga

JR. WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Johar Lashin 1-Vince Phillips 2-Miguel Ángel Gonzalez 3-Khalid Rahilou 4-Kostya Tszyu 5-Frankie Randell 6-Julio Cesar Chavez 7-Paul Nave 8-Charles Murray 9-Hector Lopez 10-Rodney Wilson

LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Tony Pep 1-Orzubek Nazarov 2-Shane Mosley 3-Steve Johnston 4-Phillip Holiday 5-George Scott 6-Lamar Murphy 7-Jean Baptist Mendy 8-John John Molina 9-Marco Rudolph 10-Billy Irwin

JR. LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Arturo Gatti 2-Genaro Hernandez 3-Yong Soo Choi 4-Azumah Nelson 5-Joel Casamayor 6-Angel Manfredy 7-Julien Lorcy 8-Julien Lorcy 9-Dennis Holbaek 10-Jesus Chavez

FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Naseem Hamed 2-Luisito Espinosa 3-Wilfredo Vasquez 4-Tom Johnson 5-Franciso Segura 6-David Toledo 7-Radford Beasley 8-Kevin Kelly 9-Orlando Canizales 10-Welcome Ncita

JR. FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Junior Jones 2-Vuyani Bungu 3-Antonio Cermino 4-Erik Morales 5-Marco Antonio Barrera 6-Wayne McCullough 7-Kennedy McKinney 8-Daniel Zaragoza 9-Rico Siodora 10-Lehlohonolo Ledwaba

BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Johnny Bredahl 1-Tim Austin 2-Robbie Regan 3-Nana Konadu 4-Daorung Siriwat 5-Jorge Julio 6-Sirimon Nakornthornparkview 7-Paulie Ayala 8-Mbulelo Botile 9-Veeraphol Sahaprom 10-Patrick Quka

JR. BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Johnny Tapia 2-Gerry Penalosa 3-Yokthai Sith Oar 4-Katsuya Onizuka 5-Danny Romero 6-Luis Bolanos 7-Ratanchai Sor Voraphin 8-Abbey Mnisi 9-Hiroshi Kawashima 10-Harold Grey

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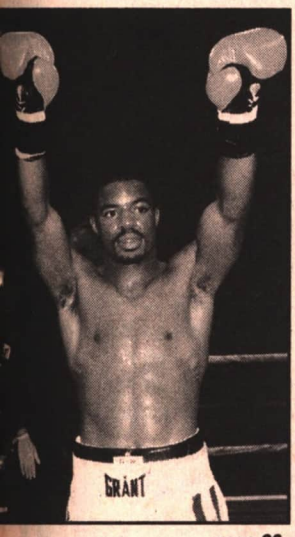

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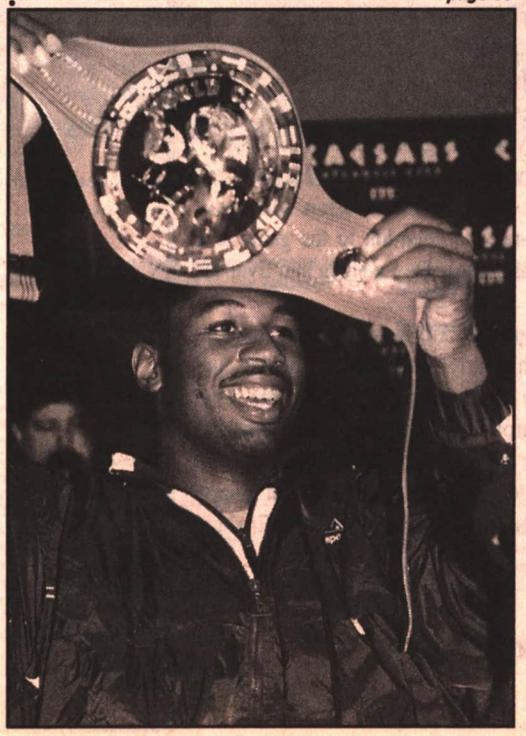

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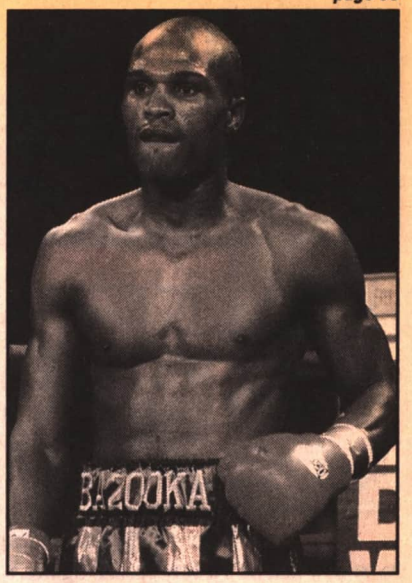

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RINGSIDE

There's a bloke from England who keeps calling THE RING's editorial office to complain that Naseem Hamed isn't ranked in the magazine's pound-for-pound ratings. Well, he is now (see page 13), and unless I've missed my guess, he'll be there for a long time to come, perhaps even fighting his way to the very top of the list one day. For while "Prince Naseem's" narcissistic ego-tripping, grandiose ring walks, and weirdo fighting style turn off many boxing purists, you have to be an idiot not to realize by now that he's a very special fighter.

To date, most of us in this country have only seen highlights of Hamed's fights, though his domination of then-IBF featherweight champion Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson was shown here in its entirety. But now that he's signed a long-term deal with HBO, the bat-eared ball of energy from Sheffield, England, is going to become a huge presence in this country, somersaulting (backward) over the top rope and into the living rooms of armchair boxing fans across the nation on a regular basis.

At first, those who dislike Hamed figured he was just a flash-in-the-pan who would be unmasked the first time he fought a world-class opponent. That theory was discredited in the Johnson fight. Now, most of the anti-Hamed people have been reduced to badmouthing him because he doesn't fit their image of what a boxing hero should be. These folks had better prepare themselves for a thoroughly unpleasant time, because, love him or hate him, Hamed is going to be kicking butt well into the new millennium.

This column is being written weeks prior to Hamed's stateside debut against Kevin Kelley, but I'm not in the least bit hesitant in predicting that he'll thrash "The Flushing Flash" like he's never been thrashed before. And while whipping Kelley at this point in the former WBC featherweight champion's career may not be the sort of accomplishment needed to guarantee Hamed's enshrinement at Canastota, I'm willing to crawl out on the proverbial limb considerably further: Nobody—not Junior Jones, Wilfredo Vazquez, Luisito Espinoza, Erik Morales, nor anybody else you can name around the same weight—is going to beat the cocky little Englishman anytime soon.

Mind you, all of the above would make marvelous opponents for Hamed, and that's one of the reasons the timing is so right for his American invasion. Moreover, Hamed's outlandish personality will bring much-needed attention to the game at a time when most of its top stars are low-key sorts like Oscar De La Hoya and Evander Holyfield.

In many ways, Hamed is very similar to Muhammad Ali: brash, unorthodox, and inordinately full of himself. And like Ali during his early years, a lot of people find his personality hard to stomach. But providing he can deliver the goods in the same impressive manner Ali did, it wouldn't be too surprising if fans on this side of the Atlantic come to love him almost as much as those in his native England. Almost.

And if I'm dead wrong about Hamed, and he gets his head handed to him tout de suite, that's okay, too. At least I won't have to listen to that pesky bloke from England anymore.

Nigel Collins
Editor-In-Chief

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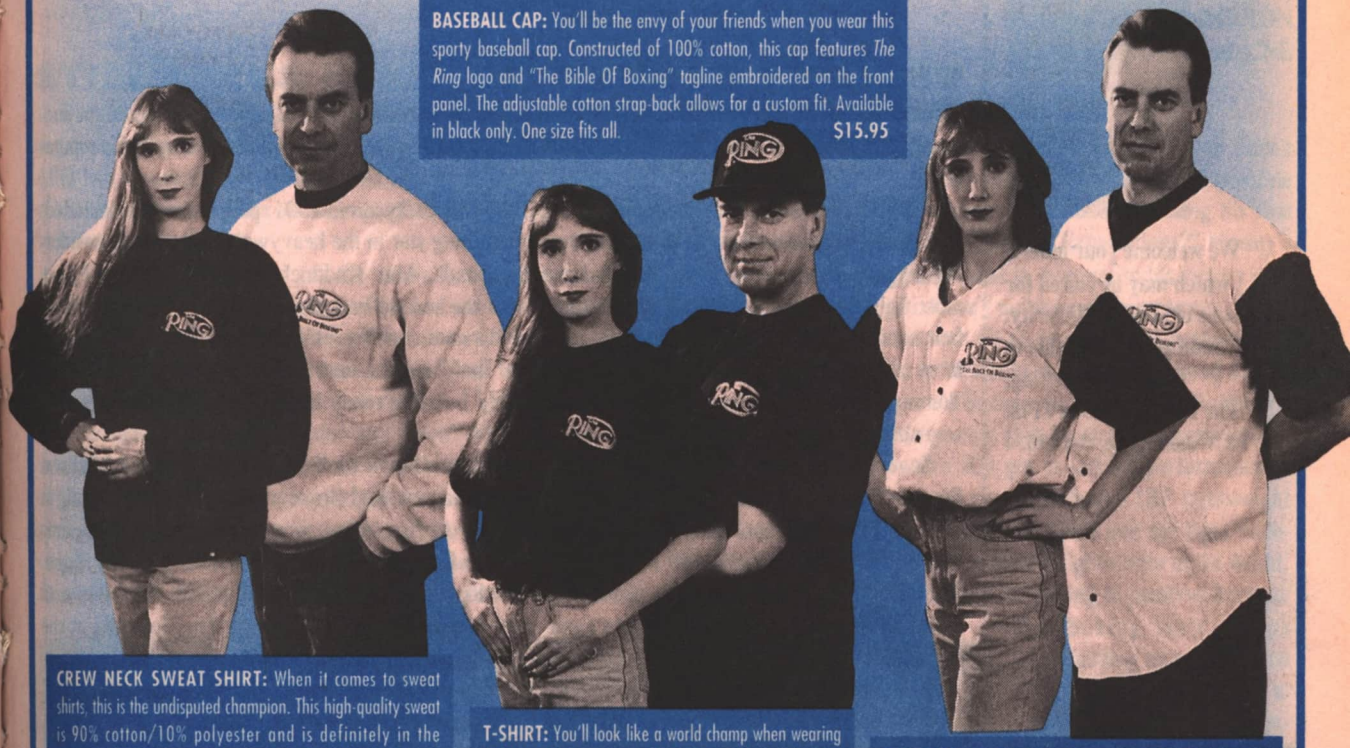

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

VICTORY IN DEFEAT?

Once again, history reared its ugly head in the sport of boxing, and all of us so-called "fight analysts" were reminded that a fighter who earns a reputation by losing is bound to live up to his reputation.

After Donovan "Razor" Ruddock was TKO'd by Mike Tyson in 1991, people (myself included) were quick to assume that Ruddock was the next shining star in the heavyweight division, considering he gave Tyson all he could handle for eight rounds. After Ruddock's 12-round loss to Tyson, most fight fans were convinced that Ruddock was the second-best heavyweight in the sport. What fans should have realized was that Ruddock earned a name for himself by losing. That is not the way most contenders work their way up the rankings. Ruddock was later TKO'd by Lennox Lewis and Tommy Morrison, and never wore a championship belt like many had anticipated. His career fell way short of expectations.

Several years later, a powerful Pole named Andrew Golota took on Riddick Bowe at Madison Square Garden. A relative unknown at the time, Golota punished Bowe over the course of the fight but was DQ'd for continually hitting below the belt. At first, many were hesitant to give any credence to Golota's feat. He had controlled the entire fight, but Bowe was obviously out of shape. The December rematch in Atlantic City showed people that the first bout was no fluke, and although he was disqualified, Golota again punished Bowe and had boxing fans foaming at the mouth. He was tough, strong, and could take a punch. All of a sudden, Golota was considered a formidable opponent for the likes of Evander Holyfield and Tyson—two established, veteran heavyweight champions. The problem was he had made a name for himself by losing to a great fighter, not by beating one.

On the fateful night of October 4, history crept its way into the Atlantic City Convention Center and reminded fans that a fighter who earns a reputation by losing will go on losing. Golota was completely outclassed in his first-round TKO loss to Lennox Lewis, but it really wasn't his fault. He didn't deserve to be there in the first place, and he certainly shouldn't have been expected to win. Those of us who were fooled into believing that Golota would beat Lewis, an accomplished champion, did not learn from Ruddock's example. The next time, maybe we can save ourselves some humiliation by remembering history and recognizing the better fighter before the match.

JAMES WITKOP
San Jose, CA

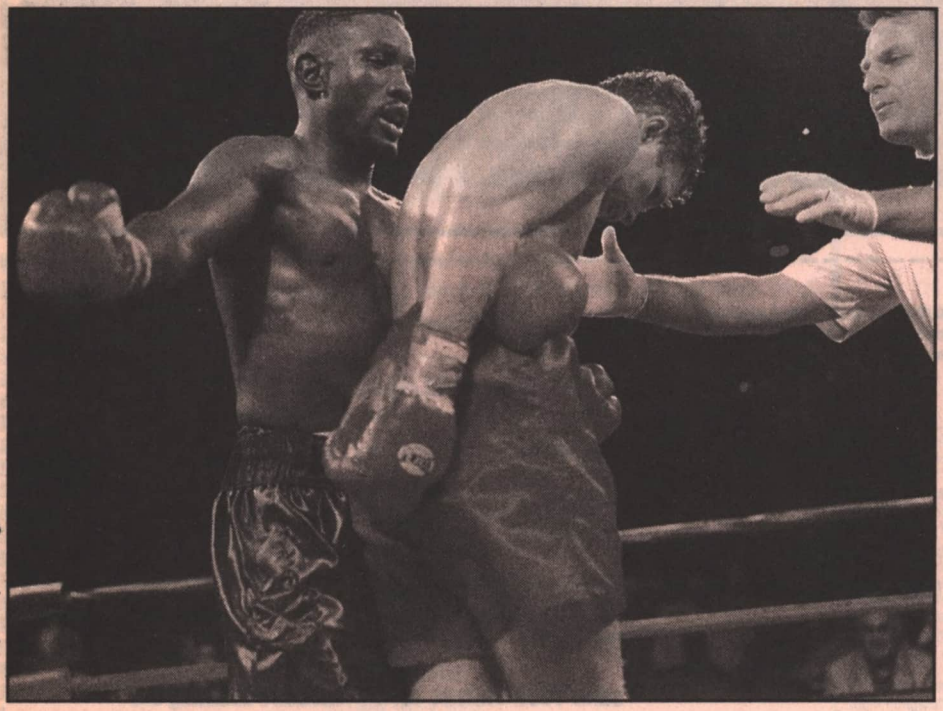


Photo By Marty Rosengarten

Perhaps looking ahead to a title fight against Ike Quartey or the rematch he desires with Oscar De La Hoya, Pernell Whitaker struggled to outpoint little-known Russian Andrei Pestriaev.

SOUR ON "SWEET PEA"

I just watched another disgraceful fight by Pernell Whitaker, against Andrei Pestriaev. Because he couldn't hurt Pestriaev, Whitaker started wrestling and holding, and then he started whining that the referee was picking on him. I believe that there are other fight fans out there who feel like I do about Whitaker, and who wonder why Whitaker continues to win fights. Ruelas and Gatti, Lopez and Quartey: These are brave men who give credit to the fight game—unlike Whitaker.

A.L. LUCERO
Honolulu, HI

STILL LIKES MIKE

Over the past few months, I have been very disgusted at the negative criticism THE RING has published about Mike Tyson. After two disappointing performances against Evander Holyfield, you've labeled him a fluke and disregarded him as one of the great heavyweight champions.

It was we the public and you the media that put Tyson on the pedestal he was on. Now that Tyson has had a mental breakdown in the ring and soured what was a fabulous career, we've abandoned the bandwagon and begun criticizing Tyson and calling him the most overrated heavyweight of all-time.

How quickly we've forgotten the "Iron" Mike Tyson who entertained us for 10 years with the most explosive combination of speed and power the heavyweight division has ever seen. I remember the Tyson who demolished everything the heavyweight division had to offer and then punctuated it by crushing an undefeated Michael Spinks. Tyson was not the overrated chump he's being made out to be. Tyson was maybe the greatest heavyweight champion of all-time.

Give Tyson the respect he deserves as a human being and the opportunity to redeem himself as a professional athlete. He may never return to that level of invincibility and he may never have those bad intentions in his gloves, but he gave life to boxing and, regardless of his recent actions, he should always be remembered as one of the great heavyweight champions.

Thank you, Mike, for the memories of the past and good luck to you in your future in boxing and, more importantly, life.

DONNY HAMILTON
Omaha, NE

SHANE ON YOU

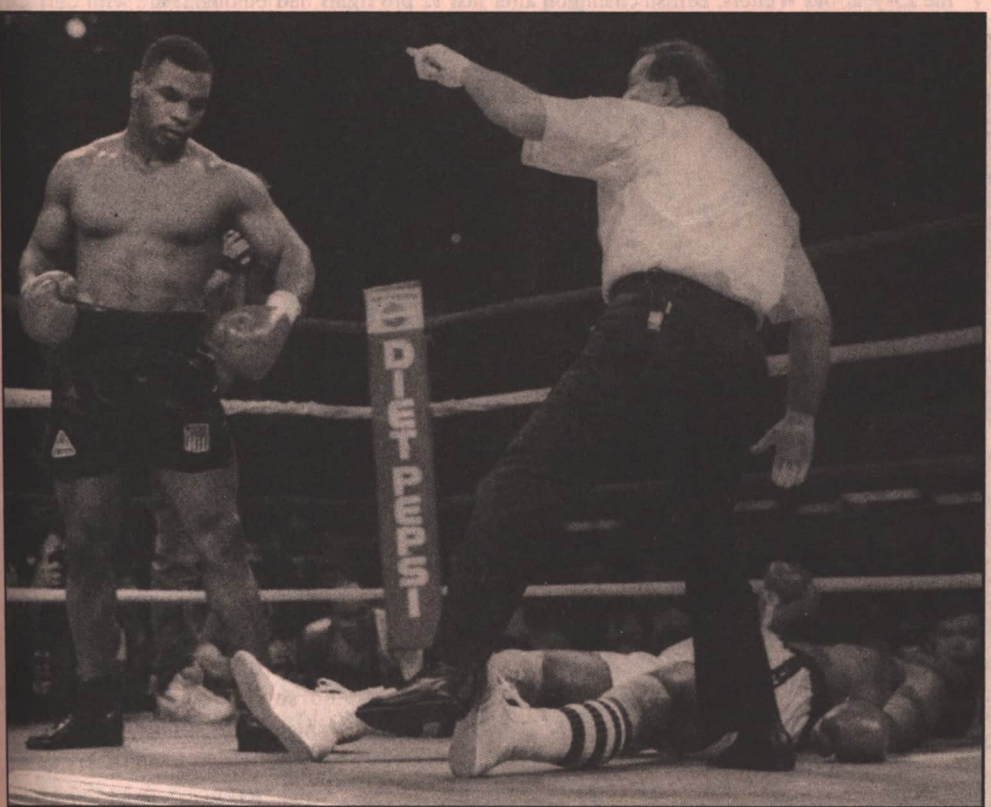
I was extremely disappointed to read the article on Shane Mosley in the Holiday 1997 issue of THE RING. How is it possible that an article about a promising young boxer capturing his first world title could be entitled "Unfulfilled Expectations?" Mosley's gotten a great deal of negative press in response to his victory over Phillip Holiday, and it just doesn't make much sense to me.

Granted, Mosley did not put on an awe-inspiring performance, but is it his fault that Larry Merchant went and compared him to the greatest pound-for-pound boxer ever, Sugar Ray Robinson? Even if you don't buy the excuse that Mosley was experiencing digestive difficulties, you've still got to put his performance in perspective. Without controversy, he defeated IBF lightweight champion Phillip Holiday, a man who came into the fight undefeated and ranked by THE RING as the top lightweight in the world.

Yes, Mosley spent several rounds running to preserve his lead. But boxing isn't always about putting on a good show or going out of your way to prove you deserve to be mentioned in the same sentence as a legend like Robinson. Sometimes, you just have to do what it takes—within the rules—to win. And that's precisely what Shane Mosley did, against one of the top fighters in the world, no less.

Mosley may have been in awe of his situation a bit, never having engaged in a fight of this magnitude with an opponent of this caliber before. I feel it's much too early to rule out the possibility that Mosley can be a superstar. After all, he is the undefeated IBF lightweight champion, with plenty more opportunities ahead to fulfill the expectations placed upon him.

GREGORY TAYLOR
Santa Barbara, CA ■



Mike Tyson was at the height of his dominance when he kayoed Michael Spinks in 1988. Reader Donny Hamilton suggests the media has gone overboard in its recent assessment of the former champ.

ROUND ONE

TRAGEDY NEARLY STRIKES AGAIN

Carl Wright, a 28-year-old boxer from Liverpool, England, had not fought for a year when he challenged Mark Winters, Antrim, Northern Ireland, for the vacant British junior welterweight title on October 11. The bout nearly cost him his life.

As we went to press, Wright was battling for survival in the neurological ward of Walton Hospital in Merseyside after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain. The initial prognosis was reasonably optimistic, but he remained in critical condition.

Wright had shown no immediate signs of serious damage after 12 hard rounds against Winters. He was examined by a British Boxing Board of Control doctor, had three stitches inserted into a cut over his left eye, and went back into the Sheffield Arena to catch a glimpse of featherweight phenomenon Naseem Hamed. But on the 90-mile drive home in trainer Colin Moorcroft's car, Wright suddenly began to vomit and then lost consciousness. Moorcroft drove him immediately to the Liverpool Infirmary where he was put on a ventilator before being transferred to Walton.

"I'm absolutely devastated, I just feel empty, it's taken everything away from the win," said the 25-year-old Winters, British champion after just 12 pro fights. "My thoughts are with Carl and his family, and I just hope he pulls through. I don't know if I'll ever box again."

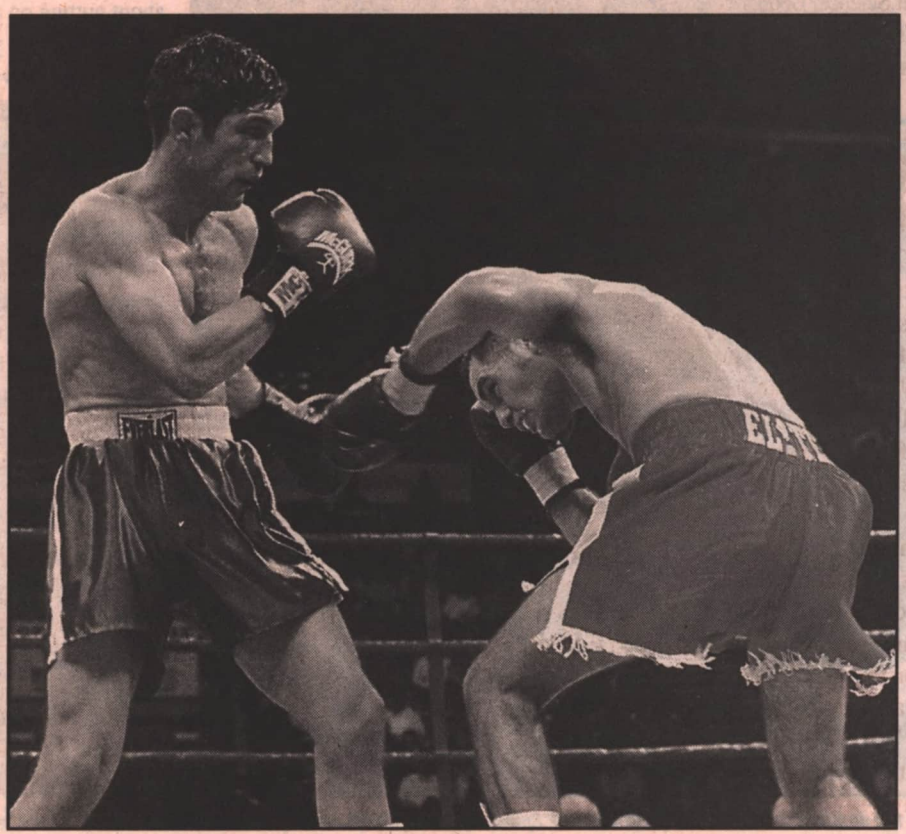


Photo By John Gichigi/Allsport

Wright (left) was in critical condition after his fight with Winters

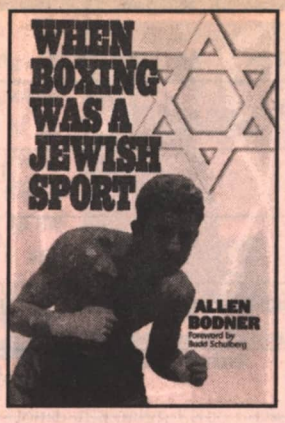
Wright's brother, Paul, the Central Area middleweight champion, fought back tears as he announced *he* would never fight again.

"I couldn't put our family through this sort of pain again," he said. At the time of the incident, Carl's wife was seven weeks pregnant.

His plight is yet another stark reminder that making a case for the hardest game is an arduous exercise. Nobody can afford to be glib about the risks involved when a fighter climbs into the ring. Wright's family knows far too much about those risks now.

—Brian Doogan

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

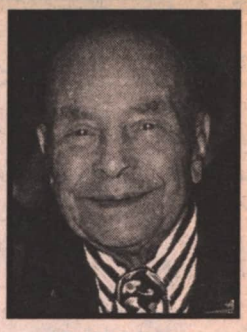


Nowadays, Jewish boxers are about as common as unified titles or former greats who can differentiate between a retirement and a vacation. And because Jews haven't played a significant role as boxers in nearly 50 years, many of today's fans would be surprised to learn how many of the great fighters of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s were Jewish. Allen Bodner's *When Boxing Was A Jewish Sport* (207 pages, Praeger Publishers, $24.95) aims to revive the historical impact Jews had upon boxing in America, providing simple answers to the complex question of why so many Jews engaged in professional boxing not so long ago.

Bodner's work excels in its compelling detailing of the careers of Benny Leonard, Barney Ross, Maxie Rosenbloom, Artie Levine, and the numerous other Jewish fighters who competed for championships. Though many parts read like a history book, the past comes alive through revealing interviews with the Jewish fighters—including Bodner's own father, Leo. By incorporating these intimate recollections with the sheer excitement of the Sweet Science, Bodner conveys the significance of the Jewish people in a sport from which they have since faded as combatants.

—Eric Raskin

STILL BUBBLING ALONG



"Bubble"-licious: Hall of Famer Klice

For the last 62 years, Arrington "Bubble" Klice has been "Mr. Boxing" in Kansas City, Missouri, and on November 11, the city honored the man who developed 130 regional and 11 national Golden Gloves champions by co-naming its new municipal boxing gym after him.

The $4.5-million John Gray Community & Arrington Klice Fitness Center, at the intersection of 17th and Paseo Streets, was formally dedicated just a few weeks after the honoree's 89th birthday.

Klice, a member of the National Golden Gloves Hall of Fame, started with the amateur tournament in 1935, and since then has missed only three of the national tournaments, when he was in the armed forces during World War II. He still works the glove table at every national tournament.

Klice got his own start in boxing in the 1920s as a participant in a "Battle Royal," and the highlight of Bubble's ring career came when he went on tour with a boxing troupe headed by Jack Johnson.

"He was comical and entertaining," says Klice of the first black heavyweight champion. "And you know, he was crazy about white women. Outside of that, he was just a normal, uneducated person. He was pleasant to work with."

In the 1940s, Klice trained pro middleweight contenders Major Jones and Jackie Darthard, but his principle focus has been on helping youngsters gain self-assurance and confidence through amateur boxing.

"Bubble Klice has probably meant more to young men in Kansas City not only in the pugilistic field, but in so many other ways," said Otis Gates, director of the municipal Department of Parks and Recreation. "He's small in stature, but as big otherwise as any man in this town."

—Pete Ehrmann

BASILIO, 40 YEARS AFTER ROBINSON

On September 23, 1957, Carmen Basilio outslugged Sugar Ray Robinson over 15 grueling rounds to capture a split decision victory and the middleweight title in front of nearly 40,000 fans in Yankee Stadium. The fight was THE RING's Fight of the Year and Basilio's performance earned him Fighter of the Year honors.

On October 12, 1997, more than 1,000 boxing fans gathered at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Basilio's hometown of Canastota, New York, to congratulate the former welterweight and middleweight champion on the 40th anniversary of his historic victory over Robinson.

Basilio, whose rugged style endeared him to boxing fans forever, greeted and signed autographs for those in attendance, many of whom were family and friends. Basilio's admirers were there not only to congratulate him on the anniversary, but also to wish the champ well as he continues to recover from the six-way heart bypass surgery he underwent in early-June. Despite some expected pain in his chest, Basilio is well on the road to recovery.

In fact, his quick wit and comic timing haven't been altered in the slightest. When photographed with THE RING championship belt awarded to him following his win over Robinson, the 70-year-old Basilio quipped, "Do you know how many times I had to get my ass kicked to get this?"

—Jeff Brophy

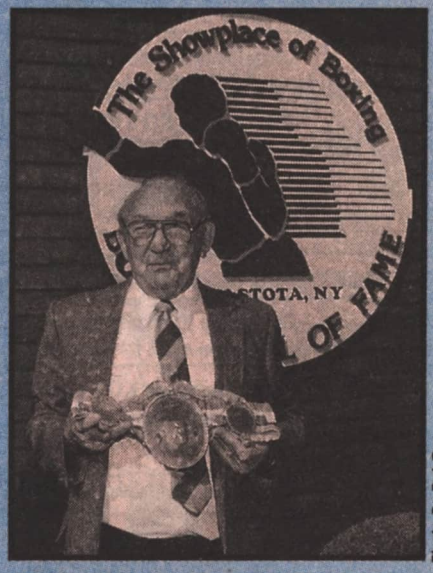


Photo By Pat Orr

Basilio displays his 40-year-old Ring belt at the Hall of Fame

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
9-30-97	Tony Marshall W 12 Steve Martinez	USA	NABF jm	C	A	B-
Rugged Marshall outworks a still-green Martinez						
10-3-97	David Reid KO 1 Jorge Vaca	FOXSN	m	B	B	B
A single overhand right does the trick against used-up Vaca						
10-4-97	Fernando Vargas KO 6 Alex Quiroga	PPV	w	C	A	B
Extended for the first time, Vargas shines						
10-4-97	Joel Casamayor KO 2 Julio Gervacio	PPV	jl	C	B	C
Another blowout for Casamayor; time to improve competition						
10-4-97	Jesus Chavez KO 7 Troy Dorsey	PPV	NABF jl	A-	A	B+
Dorsey still willing, but Chavez has too many guns						
10-4-97	**Arturo Gatti KO 5 Gabe Ruelas**	**PPV**	**IBF jl**	**A**	**A**	**A+**
Typical Gatti war; bombs away for as long as it lasted						
10-4-97	**Lennox Lewis KO 1 Andrew Golota**	**PPV**	**WBC h**	**A**	**A**	**B-**
Can you say "deer in the headlights"?						
10-6-97	Arthur Johnson KO 11 Ilido Julio	FOXSN	jb	B	B	A
A war all the way with Johnson pulling it out at the end						
10-7-97	Bronco McKart W 12 Eric Holland	USA	IBA jm	C+	B	C
One-way beating; Oba Carr-Anthony Jones should have been main event						
10-10-97	John-John Molina KO 7 Joey Negron	ESPN2	jw	B-	C	C
Still-sturdy Molina takes fight out of disinterested Negron						
10-14-97	Saul Montana W 12 Kenny Keene	USA	IBA c	C	B	B
Last-minute sub Montana comes up big						
10-17-97	**Ike Quartey D 12 Jose Luis Lopez**	**HBO**	**WBA w**	**A**	**A**	**B+**
Quartey finally shows weakness; big time for Lopez						
10-17-97	Pernell Whitaker W 12 Andrei Pestriaev	HBO	w	B	C	C
Pea still sweet enough to edge awkward Russian						
10-17-97	Adan Vargas W 10 Alfred Kotey	FOXSN	b	B	A	A-
A close, exciting battle; Vargas' frenetic work rate the difference						
10-18-97	Diego Corrales KO 6 Juan Angel Macias	Telemundo	l	B	B	B
Another kayo for rising star Corrales						
10-18-97	Hector Lopez KO 2 Angel Beltre	FOXSN	NABO jw	B	C	B
Lopez shows some power in blowout						
10-20-97	Larry Dixon KO 8 Leonardo Mas	FOXSN	w	C	B	B+
Cut forces stoppage to competitive bout						
10-24-97	Antoine Byrd KO 8 Willie Monroe	ESPN2	USBA sm	B-	A	C
Monroe quits in corner after mostly passive effort						
10-28-97	Thomas Tate KO 11 Joseph Kiwanuka	USA	NABF sm	B+	A	B
Tate pulls off the upset with smarts and power						
10-31-97	Julian Jackson KO 3 Lalo Gutierrez	ESPN2	m	C	B	C+
"The Hawk" can still punch with power; bodypunch brings the end						
11-1-97	David Izon KO 5 Lou Savarese	HBO	h	B+	A	A-
Izon's power and speed too much for Savarese						
11-4-97	Tim Witherspoon KO 1 Levi Billups	USA	h	B	C	B
Spoon stays in the heavyweight hunt						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

AN EMMY FOR VINNY?

Paz Academy: Pazienza with co-stars P.J. Ochlan and Rod Crawford

You remember those classic *Police Academy* characters: Steve Guttenberg as Mahoney, the mischievous leader of the pack; Michael Winslow as Jones, the human sound effects processor; Bubba Smith as the intimidating Hightower; and David Graf as the trigger-happy Tackleberry. Well, add to that list Ty "Sweet Cheeks" Henderson, played by none other than three-division former champion Vinny Pazienza.

Nobody can accuse Pazienza of stretching outside his acting repertoire, because his character is—you guessed it—a boxer. On the WB network's *Police Academy: The Series*, "Paz" guest starred as the World Boxing Society heavyweight champion turned Academy cadet in an episode entitled "No Sweat, Sweet." Of course, there isn't really a World Boxing Society (yet), but then again, Pazienza's not exactly a heavyweight either.

According to the plotline, Henderson gets kayoed by Stuart "All Man" Owen due to a lack of focus, and his management team ships him off to the Police Academy to toughen up. By the time his Academy ordeal is over, Henderson has defeated Owen in the rematch and earned the love of series regular Alice, played by Christine Gonzales.

If Paz' performance impresses, the guest roles for boxers should start rolling in. We can see it now: Andrew Golota and Oliver McCall as call-in patients on *Frasier*, Oscar De La Hoya letting his sideburns grow in to join the cast of *Beverly Hills 90210*, and Naseem Hamed taking over for Will Smith as the new *Fresh Prince*.

—Eric Raskin

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

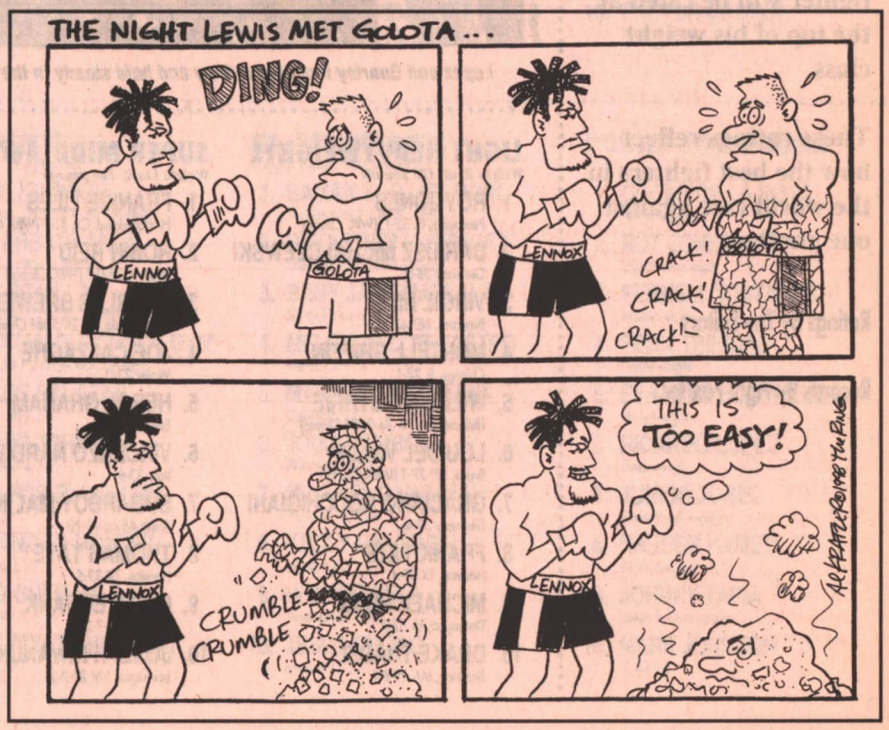
Being awarded $45,000 is usually a good thing. But, in the case of **Mitch Green**, it's a major disappointment. Green was seeking $25-million for the injuries he sustained at the hands of **Mike Tyson** in a 1988 streetfight, but a jury determined that Green was responsible for instigating the brawl and awarded him far less than even the settlement that Tyson's lawyers had offered him. Green suffered a broken nose, a five-stitch cut over the bridge of his nose, and a swollen left eye in the altercatiion ... Former heavyweight contender **Gerry Cooney** refers to the time after a boxer stops fighting as "being in the hallway," a confusing place with no support or assistance. To help fill the void created when a boxer's career ends, Cooney recently organized the F.I.S.T. (Fighters Institute for Support and Training) Foundation, which assists ex-fighters, young and old, with job training and medical care. The Foundation is hoping to get one-half a percent of the gross revenue from each major bout to be put aside for the fighters and the problems they face after boxing. F.I.S.T. can be contacted at (212) 252-1005.

THE PUNCHLINES

"That's the trouble with you guys, you've been around as long as I have."
—Linear heavyweight champion George Foreman, upon being reminded by boxing writers that he'd been knocked down by Jimmy Young and Ron Lyle, not just by Muhammad Ali, as Big George claimed.

"America has never seen anything like me. I'm the Beatles and Muhammad Ali rolled into one."
—The ever-audacious "Prince" Naseem Hamed at a New York City press conference announcing his U.S. debut.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended November 5, 1997

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

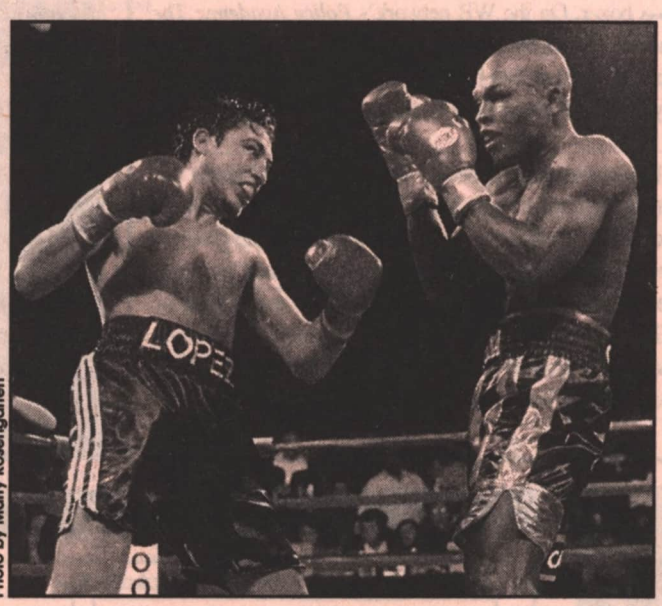


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Lopez and Quartey fought to a draw and held steady in the rankings

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Fairburn, GA 34-3 (WBA Champ)
2. LENNOX LEWIS
England 32-1 (WBC Champ)
3. MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI 39-1 (IBF Champ)
4. RAY MERCER
West Orange, NJ 24-4-1
5. TIM WITHERSPOON
Philadelphia, PA 46-5
6. GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX 76-4
7. IKE IBEABUCHI
Dallas, TX 17-0
8. DAVID TUA
Totowa, NJ 27-1
9. ANDREW GOLOTA
Chicago, IL 28-3
10. DAVID IZON
Nigeria 20-2

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. NATE MILLER
Philadelphia, PA 30-4 (WBA Champ)
2. URIAH GRANT
Miami, FL 26-12 (IBF Champ)
3. MARCELO DOMINGUEZ
Argentina 22-1-1 (WBC Champ)
4. ADOLPHO WASHINGTON
Lexington, KY 26-4-2
5. FABRICE TIOZZO
France 37-1
6. ROBERT DANIELS
Miami, FL 35-3-1
7. CARL THOMPSON
England 22-4
8. JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ
Germany 21-0
9. TORSTEN MAY
Germany 16-1
10. TERRY DUNSTAN
England 16-0

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL 35-1 (WBC Champ)
2. DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI
Germany 36-0
3. VIRGIL HILL
Bismarck, ND 43-2
4. MONTELL GRIFFIN
Chicago, IL 27-1
5. WILLIAM GUTHRIE
Philadelphia, PA 24-0 (IBF Champ)
6. LOU DEL VALLE
Bronx, NY 27-1 (WBA Champ)
7. GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI
Germany 39-4-1
8. FRANK TATE
Houston, TX 39-4
9. MICHAEL NUNN
Davenport, IA 52-3
10. DRAKE THADZI
Brockton, MA 29-8-1

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. FRANKIE LILES
N. Hollywood, CA 31-1 (WBA Champ)
2. ROBIN REID
England 25-0-1 (WBC Champ)
3. CHARLES BREWER
Philadelphia, PA 29-5 (IBF Champ)
4. JOE CALZAGHE
Wales 23-0
5. HEROL GRAHAM
England 47-5
6. VINCENZO NARDIELLO
Italy 33-6
7. SUGARBOY MALINGA
South Africa 41-10
8. THOMAS TATE
Houston, TX 33-5
9. CHRIS EUBANK
England 45-3-2
10. JOSEPH KIWANUKA
Las Vegas, NV 25-2-2

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA 32-2-1 (IBF Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR GREEN
Brooklyn, NY 22-2 (WBA Champ)
3. KEITH HOLMES
Washington, D.C. 29-1 (WBC Champ)
4. WILLIAM JOPPY
Washington, D.C. 24-1-1
5. LONNIE BRADLEY
New York, NY 26-0-1
6. OTIS GRANT
Canada 29-1-1
7. ROBERT McCRACKEN
England 30-0
8. BRIAN BARBOSA
Providence, RI 23-3
9. HASSINE CHERIFI
France 24-2-1
10. DANA ROSENBLATT
Malden, MA 29-1

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *47-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *35-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *59-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *37-1*
5. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *33-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *64-4-1*
8. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *23-2*
9. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *68-2*
10. **DAVIDE CIARLANTE**
    Italy *23-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *26-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *41-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *39-3-2*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *42-2-1*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *25-4-1*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *27-2-1*
9. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *22-0*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia *20-2*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *37-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *31-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *99-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *42-1*
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-1-1*
6. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *49-3*
7. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Palmdale, CA *37-6-1*
8. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD *26-2*
9. **ALFONSO SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *17-1*
10. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
    Warren, OH *53-5-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *25-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *31-1*
5. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *32-1*
6. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-4-2*
7. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT *26-2*
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-6-2*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *44-4*
10. **ARTUR GRIGORIJAN**
    Uzbekistan *23-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *36-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *29-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *23-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *29-0*
5. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *22-2-1*
6. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *36-0-2*
7. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *59-5-1*
8. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *22-1*
9. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *45-3-2*
10. **GABE RUELAS**
    Arleta, CA *44-4*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *28-0*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *41-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *49-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *47-1-2*
5. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *22-1*
6. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *14-0*
7. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *21-4*
8. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *46-3-1*
9. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *40-2*
10. **EVER BELENO**
    Colombia *37-3*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *44-2*
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *33-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-2*
6. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *55-8-3*
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *33-3-1*
8. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-1*
9. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO *27-0-1*
10. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
    Mexico *23-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH *17-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand *16-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *37-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *37-1*
5. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-1*
6. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *23-0*
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *13-1*
8. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *61-6-3*
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico *25-1-1*
10. **PASTOR MAURIN**
    Argentina *36-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *41-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *30-2*
3. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *38-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *14-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
8. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *22-1-1*
9. **RATANACHAI SOR VORAPIN**
   Thailand *24-3*
10. **JULIO GAMBOA**
    Nicaragua *21-2*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *33-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *23-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *30-1 (Interim WBC Champ)*
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *46-7-3*
6. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *17-3*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *34-3*
9. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France *9-0*
10. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
    Thailand *30-3*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *36-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *18-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *46-10-2*
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *50-5-4*
5. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *16-0*
6. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *22-3*
7. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *45-4*
8. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *22-2*
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
10. **JESUS CHONG**
    Mexico *31-8*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
6. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweught
7. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
8. **NASEEM HAMED**
   Featherweight
9. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Junior Bantamweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

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Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

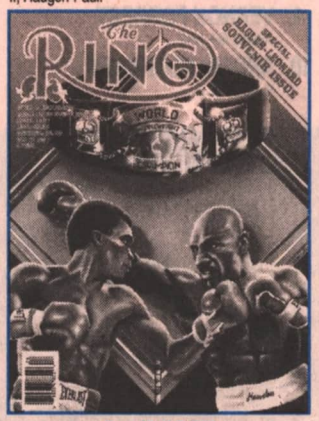
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.



April 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: All-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando

Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But *The Ring* Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Sept. 1995: Bona Fide Superstar: Oscar Is The Boxer For The '90s. Plus: George Foreman, Danny Romero, Vincent Pettway, Lou Ambers, George Latka, What If ... McCallum-Hearns.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: Go East, Young Man: Oscar De La Hoya—Making All The Right Moves Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruno & Eubank, who's hot & who's not, Eddie Perkins.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Holiday 1996 (92-Page Special): Tyson-Holyfield. Finally! Plus: Ali, Paz-Rosenblatt, 100 greatest title fights of all-time, Stillman's gym.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

Feb. 1997: Holyfield Of Dreams ... And Grim Reality For Iron Mike. Plus: Roy Jones, Ike Quartey, 10 fighters to watch, Joey Giambra, Washington-May, Fred Apostoli.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING'S 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Aug. 1997: Keep Your Word, Oscar ... Give "Sweet Pea" A Rematch! Plus: Shane Mosley, Tony Zale, Holyfield-Tyson II preview, Montell Griffin, Red Cochrane.

Sept. 1997: (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

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NEW FACES

ZAB JUDAH

Junior Welterweight

By Frank J. Krewda

Photo by Jason Bose Lavin

Every fighter has goals. The difference between 19-year-old junior welterweight Zab Judah and most others is that he's not afraid to announce them early—and then deal with the pressures of fulfilling them later on.

"When people look at me," he says, "I want them to say, 'He's not like anybody else; he's unique.'"

Soft-spoken but confident, the 5'7", 140-pound Judah feels he has more than enough ability to unify—and retain—the title for years to come. But the ambitious southpaw makes it very clear that he is interested in more than just collecting belts.

"I want to do things that haven't been done before. I want to take boxing to places it hasn't gone to before," he says. "I want to pull off at least two defenses in one night. I know Foreman and Roy Jones fought a couple of times in one night, but that was exhibition stuff. I want to do it for real."

It may be a tad early to be thinking about making multiple defenses in one day, but after a blistering 11-0 start to his professional career, it is clear to Lou Duva, who, along with Shelly Finkel, co-manages the Flatbush, Brooklyn, native, that he is in the midst of a hot property. "Without a doubt," Duva declared, "we have the next junior welterweight champion in Zab."

At this early stage of his career, Judah's preoccupation with such a novel accomplishments as title defense doubleheaders might seem unsettling for his handlers at Main Events, but Duva and Finkel, who are familiar with Judah's boxing pedigree, know that he's always been special.

As an amateur, Judah utilized exceptional foot and hand speed and slick movement to compile a 110-5 record, capturing the New

(Continued on page 53)

PRO RECORD

1996		
Sept. 20	Michael Johnson, Miami	KO 2
Oct. 4	Pablo Tejeda, New York City	KO 4
Dec. 14	Jose Torres, Atlantic City	KO 1
1997		
Jan. 24	John Scalzi, Atlantic City	KO 1
Feb. 22	Chris Slaughter, Atlantic City	KO 1
April 5	Paul Denard, Atlantic City	KO 4
May 4	Troy Crain, Atlantic City	W 6
June 10	Omar Vasquez, Austin, TX	W 4
Aug. 24	Cesar Castro, Boston	KO 1
Oct. 3	James Salava, Atlantic City	KO 1
Oct. 18	Rick Edson, Ledyard, CT	W 6

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
11	11	0	0	8

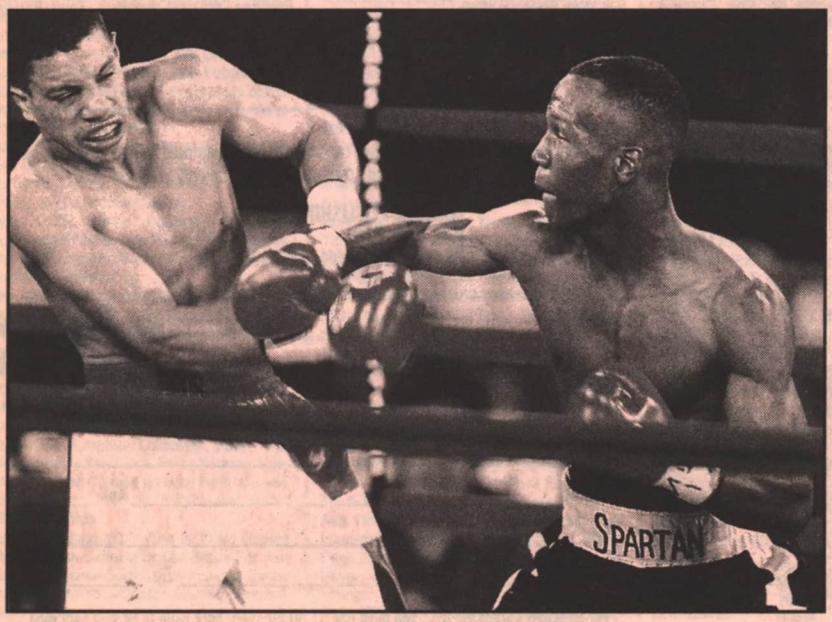

Photo by Pat Orr

Judah connects with Pablo Tejeda on his way to a fourth-round knockout.

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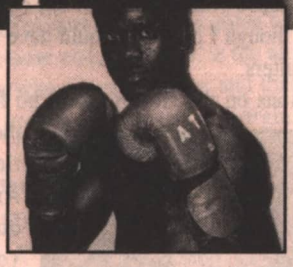

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

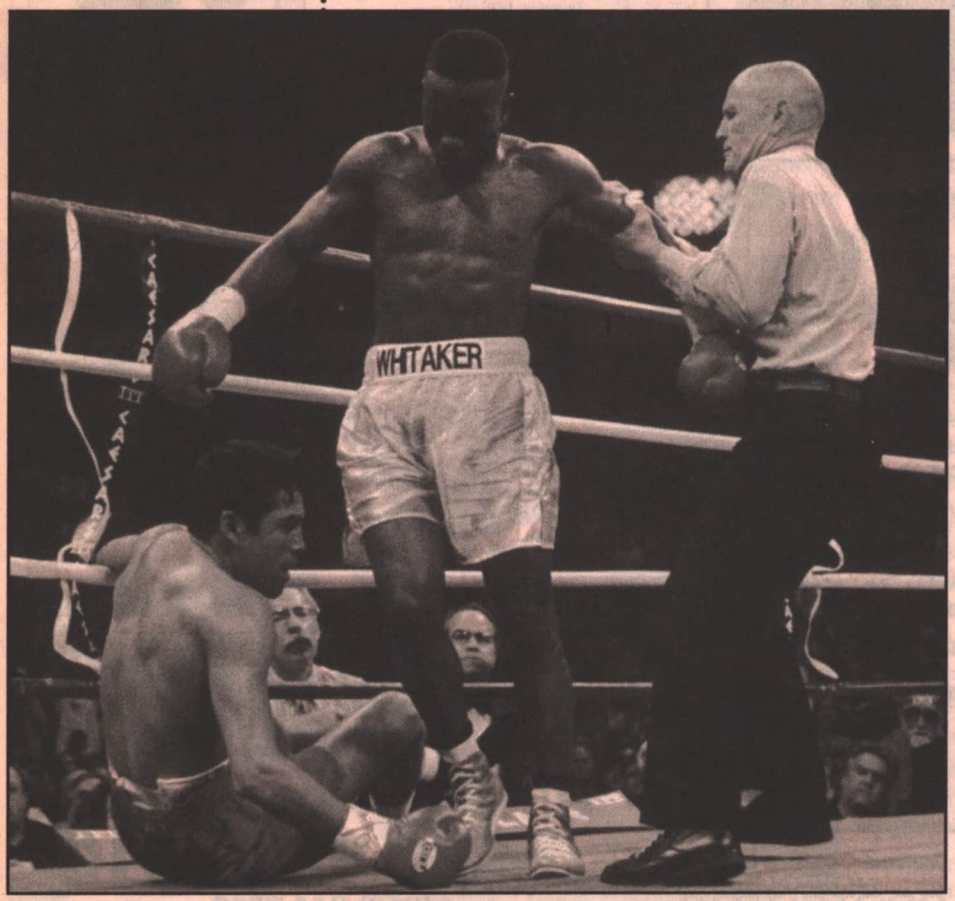
SOME UNFINISHED BIZ, WIZ?

To: Oscar De La Hoya, fighter
From: Jeff Ryan, writer

Dear Oscar,

I had hoped to mail this letter, thus keeping the contents of it just between us. But you know it would have ended up at the bottom of a mail sack, buried beneath a ton of perfume-sprayed missives from teenage girls, and wouldn't have been opened until 2002. Fed Ex? I'm too cheap. Fax? Couldn't take the chance your machine is out of paper. And you're not the easiest guy to get on the phone these days, though I probably could have lied and told your publicist that I was calling on behalf of Barbara Walters.

Oh, before I forget, congratulations on the Hector Camacho fight. Can't remember being that pleased about the result of any battle since the Persian Gulf War. And since Saddam Hussein isn't quite as unlikable as Camacho, your victory might have actually provided the more satisfying of the two outcomes. Don't fret over not knocking the guy out. The Not-So-Macho Man was holding more than the New Orleans Saints offensive line and thinking survival from the moment he signed the fight contract.



It's all but certain that De La Hoya is on his way to the Hall of Fame, but his points victory over Whitaker will serve as an asterisk on his record if there is no rematch. Though he didn't appear badly hurt, "The Golden Boy" went down momentarily in the ninth round of their battle.

All right, now, let's get to the reason I'm writing. To say this career of yours has gone pretty well so far is an understatement. The way it's unfolding, I'd swear you called AAA and asked them to map out the most direct route from East Los Angeles, California, to Canastota, New York. Sure, there have been a couple of potholes along the trip (stupidly dissing black fighters as a group before the Pernell Whitaker fight is one that immediately comes to mind), but you have deftly sidestepped each one and managed to make far more friends than enemies at every stop.

Yours is such an impressive

body of work because you've dominated guys who don't usually get dominated. Camacho was made to hang on like he was dangling out of a 10th-story window. Rafael Ruelas, David Kamau, and Jesse James Leija—all good fighters—were skewered. Genaro Hernandez was reduced to a quitter. And Julio Cesar Chavez was turned into a sissy—Spacek, that is. When his fight with you was halted, "J.C. Superstar" looked like Carrie after she got hit with a bucket of blood on prom night.

That stuff is going to make for one heck of a $19.95 videocassette one day. But you know what? There is going to be a real mood killer at one point in your ring story, an awfully noticeable toning down of the superlatives if the narrator one day has to get to the part about some unfinished business. (You just knew I was going to get around to this, didn't you?) That loose end, of course, is the aforementioned Mr. Sweet Pea, a guy who, in my opinion and that of several respected observers, beat you by the slightest of margins in April.

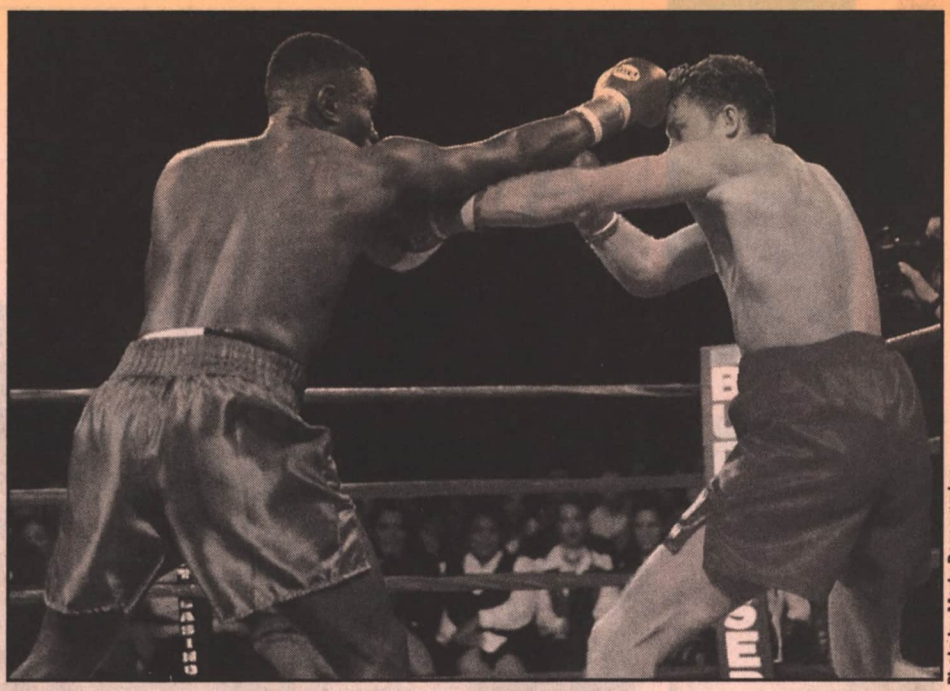


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Whitaker seemed disinterested against Pestriaev in October. Time is running out for "Sweet Pea," which means time is also running out for De La Hoya to prove himself in a rematch.

I know, I know, you thought the unanimous decision was justified. For argument's sake, let's say you're right about that. Well, you know what? If you won, you won the way the Dallas Cowboys win these days: with field goals and an offense that stalls at the 20 yard line. That wasn't exactly smash-mouth boxing you gave us that night. No matter what the scorecards said, you didn't perform well against clearly the best fighter you ever met, and people remember that.

You were quoted as saying that you knew at a very young age just how tough you were. So why were you so tentative and unsure of yourself on April 12? Too often that night, you seemed to forget which welterweight great you were facing. Newsflash: Whitaker doesn't hit like Pipino Cuevas or Tommy Hearns. There was no reason to be so reluctant to trade with him. For heaven's sake, I've seen people in straitjackets who have had less trouble than you did in letting their hands go.

Don't even say it, Oscar. I'll say it for you: Everyone has a bad night. You're right. But the true greats, the special fighters—a group that you have always seemed destined to become a member of—go back and erase the blemish. Rocky Marciano was lucky to escape with a win over Roland LaStarza, then caught up with him a few years later and knocked him out. Wilfred Benitez got a gift against Bruce Curry, then totally dominated his rival a few months later to clean up the mess. Ali never did get back at Doug Jones for making him look bad, but that was Ali. He could get away with it.

What troubles me is that one camp is holding up the signing of De La Hoya-Whitaker II, and it's yours. Bob Arum, your promoter, says he has a busy schedule ahead for you, and The Pea doesn't fit into it. You echo that party line. Wonderful. So we get to watch you smack around Wilfredo Rivera and Patrick Charpentier, and thrill to the sight of Whitaker sleepwalking against people like Andrei Pestriaev. Call me self-centered, but I don't want to watch this stuff anymore. It's like trying to sit through the first two rounds of the U.S. Open, when Pete Sampras is blasting 130-mile-per-hour serves at qualifiers.

Oscar, it's time to have a little talk with that promoter of yours. Tell him that you were lying when you said you were willing to fight these guys in the Washington Generals uniforms, and you're telling the truth today when you say you want a Whitaker rematch at the start of 1998.

This delay in finishing that unfinished business isn't making you look very good. It leaves people with one of two impressions. Either, a) you have something to fear from Whitaker, a fighter who turned pro when you were 11 years old, or b) you are arrogant enough to think that a four-division champion who gave you the toughest fight of your life isn't any more worthy of a return engagement than knockout victims like Hernandez and Kamau.

As you continue to look impressive, Oscar, the Whitaker fight raises even more questions, not less. If you are indeed so good, then what went wrong that night? Why didn't you fight your usual fight? Were your weaknesses revealed?

Following his decision over Pestriaev in October, Whitaker said, "The Man Upstairs is telling me it's about that time [to retire]. Enough is enough. All good things must come to an end." Is it really the Man Upstairs telling Whitaker that, or two stubborn men in Las Vegas named De La Hoya and Arum?

Get in the ring and do the right thing, Oscar. And do it soon, when a win over Whitaker, who will turn 34 in January, still means something. Fight The Pea now, not when the label says he's long past his expiration date.

Your friend and career counselor,

Jeff Ryan ■

CAMERA CLICKS

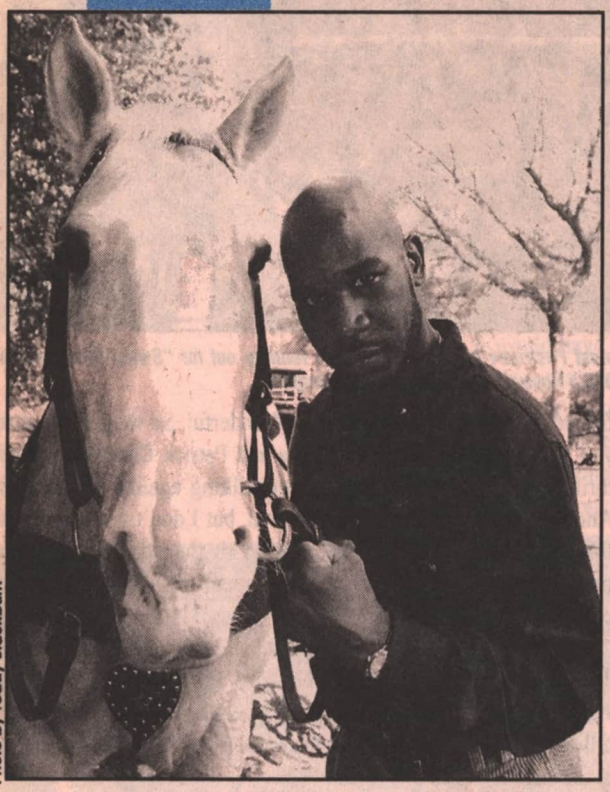


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Horseplay: He's taken on several "animals" in the ring, but junior middleweight Keith Mullings may be getting in a little over his head with this opponent. Though badly outweighed, Mullings may have a chance if he pretends the horse is one of the judges from the Raul Marquez fight.

Photo by Scott Kramer

Prefight staredowns are quite common, but after the fight's all over? Jose Luis Rivera and Rocky Gannon examine the damage they inflicted during their August 3 fight, which was won by Rivera via sixth-round TKO.

Photo By Ray Bailey

Thousands of boisterous Polish fans were on hand in Atlantic City in October, hoping to see Andrew Golota bring the WBC heavyweight title home to Polska. Half of their wish came true: They got to see Andrew Golota.

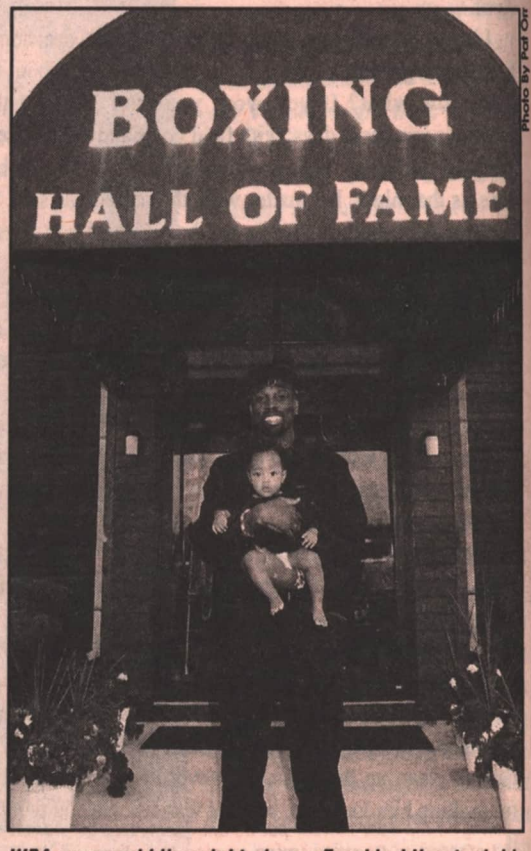


Photo by Pat Orr

WBA super middleweight champ Frankie Liles took his daughter, Frankie Chantel, to Canastota, though we doubt she could fully appreciate the history and significance of the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

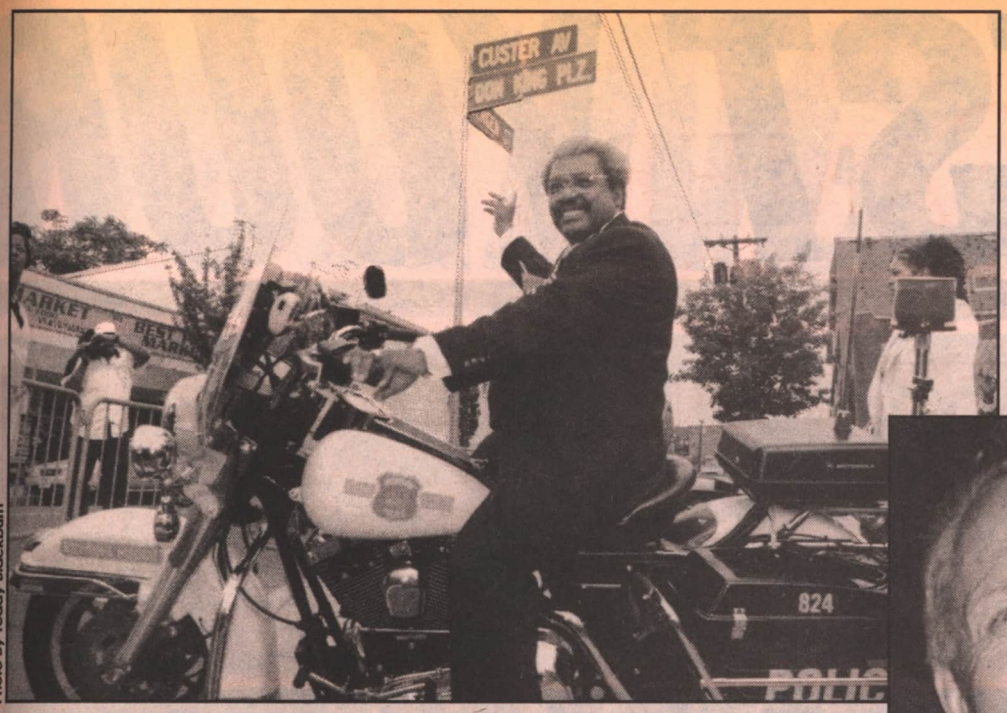


Photo By Teddy Blackburn

In one of the more amazing coincidences in recent years, Don King was spotted riding a police motorcycle down a street bearing his name, Don King Plaza in Newark, New Jersey.

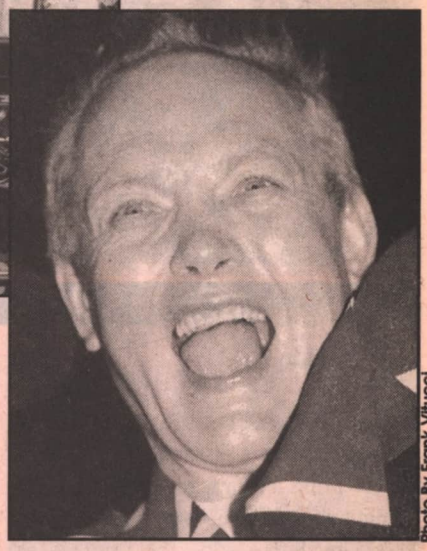


Photo By Frank Vitucci

We're not sure exactly what to call the expression on Frank Maloney's face, but we do know it was bizarre enough to momentarily draw our attention away from the over-the-top Union Jack suit he wore for Lennox Lewis' title defense against Andrew Golota. This one falls somewhere between funny and frightening.

Photo By Ray Bailey

Light heavyweight Merqui Sosa needed just two rounds to dispose of Glenn Thomas on August 23 in Atlantic City, giving him a little extra time to mug for the camera with his wife, Jean, and son, Merqui Junior.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Canadian heavyweight George Chuvalo used to dish out a beating to his spar mates, but nothing compared to the pain of listening to Chuvalo trying to play the piano—with his gloves on! The sparring partners, from left to right, are Lawrence Little, Billy Joiner, Cody Jones, Jimmy Christopher, and John Barrazza.

TEST YOUR BOXING IQ

Are You A Novice Or A Champ?

So you think you know your stuff.

You are the champion of boxing knowledge in your own neighborhood, the commissioner of pugilism at your corner bar or in your classroom. You know what Al Bernstein is going to say two rounds before he says it.

Here's the challenge. We at THE RING want to test your boxing IQ. This, however, is no trivial pursuit. To do well on this quiz, you have to know more than your left from your right, or even who won the last bare-knuckle fight. To do well in this forum, you have to also know your rules and regulations and something about the structure of the sport.

Get out some scrap paper, scratch your head, and go to work. Award yourself five points for each correct answer, then see how you stack up. In the school of hard knocks, we don't grade on a curve:

100 points: Undisputed, undefeated champion.
90-95 points: Champion. Almost ready for pay-per-view.
75-85 points: Prospect. Stay in training and you'll go far.
55-70 points: Journeyman. With a little luck, you coulda been a contender.
30-50 points: Pug. You just need experience.
5-25 points: Novice amateur. Don't forget your headgear.
0 points: Take up golf.

THE TEST

Compiled by D.E. Thomas

1. The Association of Boxing Commissioners was formed a few years ago to bring uniform regulations to state commissions. Who is its current president?

a) Greg Sirb
b) Marc Ratner
c) Larry Hazzard
d) Floyd Patterson
e) Randy Gordon

2. In wrapping a boxer's hands for a non-title fight in Nevada, a cornerman is limited to using the following on each hand:

a) 10 yards of gauze and 10 feet of tape
b) 15 yards of gauze and 15 feet of tape
c) 20 yards of gauze and 20 feet of tape
d) 15 yards of gauze and 6 feet of tape
e) Unlimited tape and gauze

3. What size gloves are used in a heavyweight championship fight?

a) 6 ounce
b) 8 ounce
c) 10 ounce
d) 12 ounce
e) 16 ounce

What size is the right size?

4. Who is chairman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission?

a) Mills Lane
b) Dr. Elias Ghanem
c) Marc Ratner
d) Dr. James Nave
e) Luther Mack

How much gauze is too much gauze?

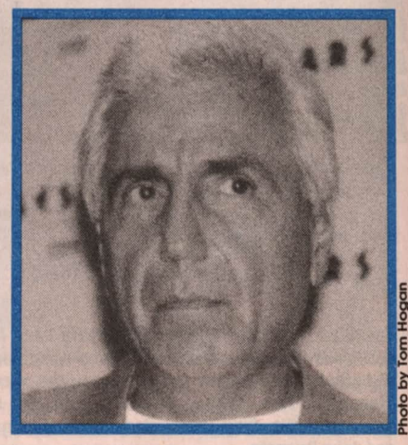
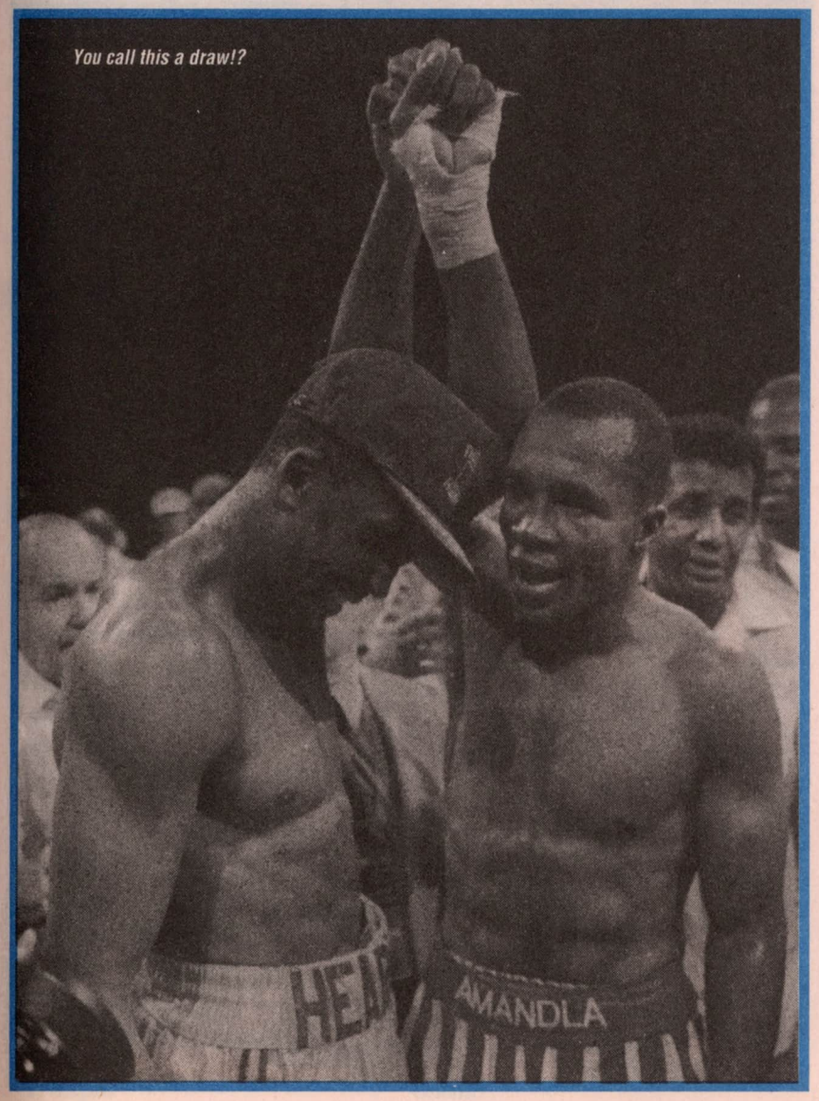
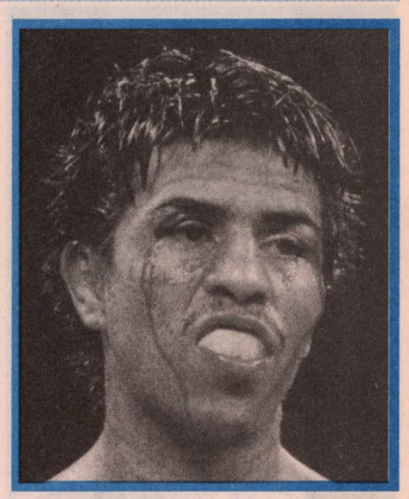


Photo by Tom Hogan

Who is this guy, anyway?



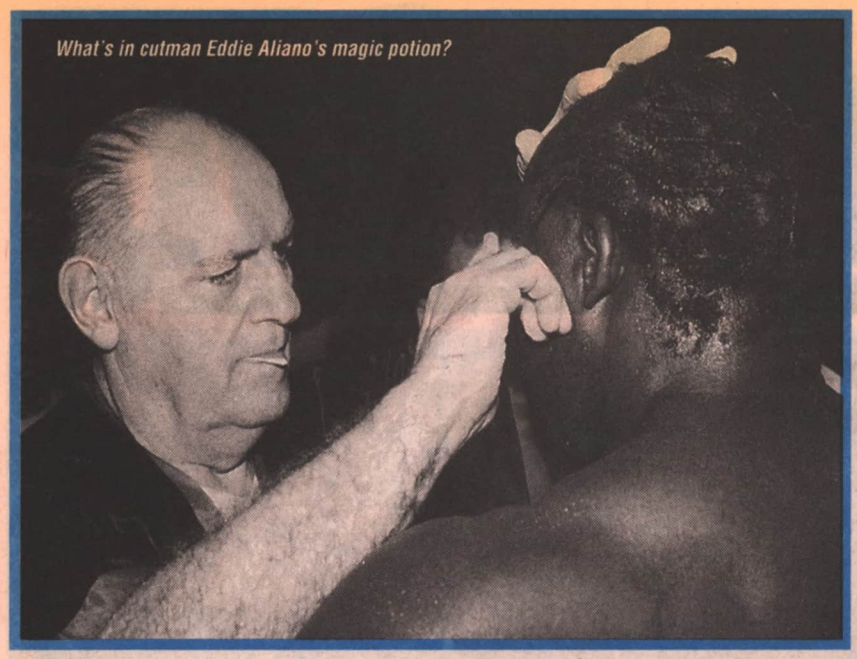


Nothing technical about Carbajal's cuts

5. Fighter A suffers a cut in the first round of a 10-round non-title bout as the result of an accidental headbutt. In the ninth round, the fight is stopped as a result of the cut, which has been further opened by punches, with Fighter B leading on all scorecards. The result is:

a) Technical draw
b) Technical knockout in favor of Fighter B
c) Technical decision in favor of Fighter B
d) Technical decision in favor of Fighter A
e) No-contest

6. After 10 rounds, one judge favors Fighter A by a score of 96-95. The other



What's in cutman Eddie Aliano's magic potion?

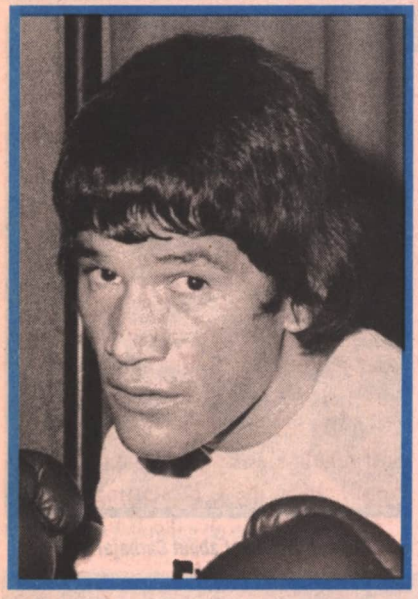
8. Which of the following substances is *not* legal to use to close a cut?

a) Vaseline
b) Adrenalin 1/1000
c) Thrombin
d) Monsel's solution
e) Avetine

9. Which sanctioning organization is the oldest?

a) IBF
b) WBA
c) WBC
d) WBO
e) WBF

10. True or false? A boxer who is stopped on his feet by technical knockout is suspended from fighting again for a minimum of 30 days.



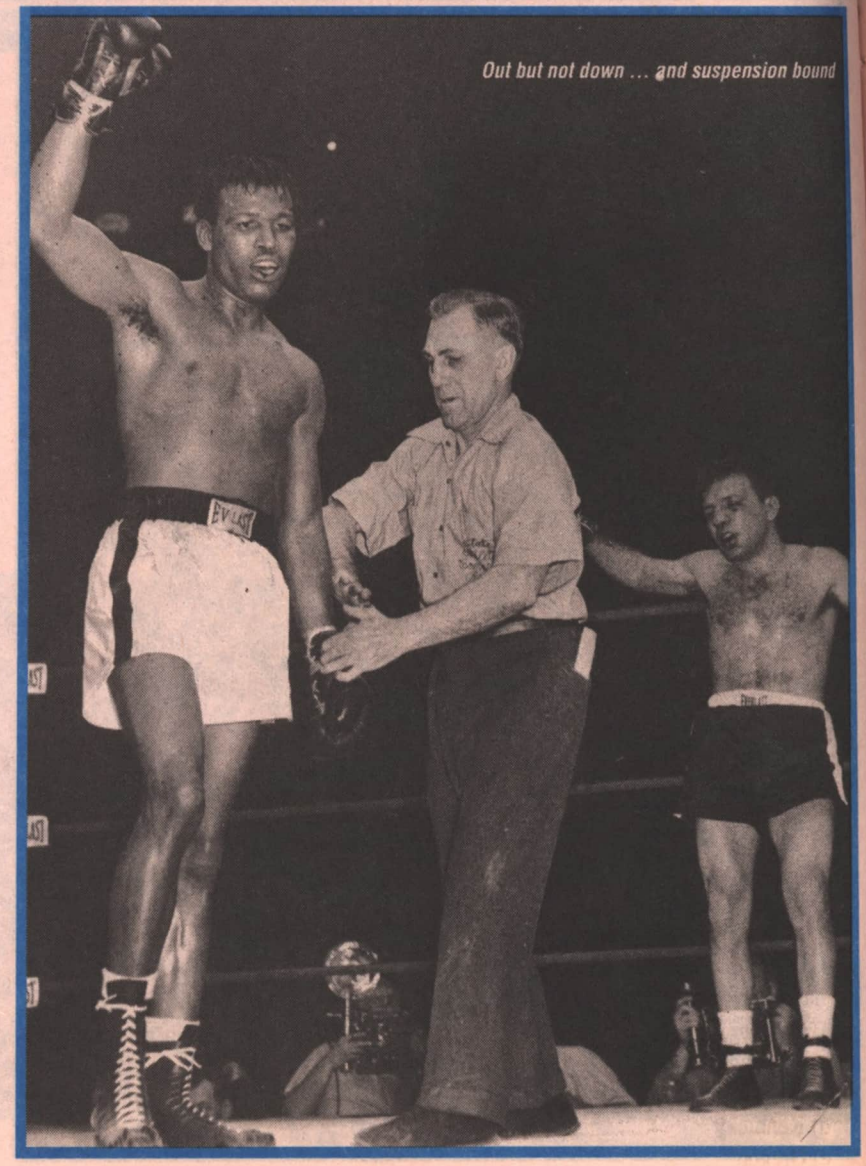
Was Monzon ever THE RING's Fighter Of The Year?

two judges score the fight even at 95-95. The result is:

a) Split decision for Fighter A
b) Majority draw
c) Majority decision for Fighter A
d) Split decision for Fighter B
e) Split draw

7. Which of these fighters was never honored as Fighter of the Year by THE RING?

a) Ezzard Charles
b) Sandy Saddler
c) Carlos Monzon
d) Thomas Hearns
e) George Foreman



Out but not down ... and suspension bound

Dave Charnley and Joe Brown check their weights

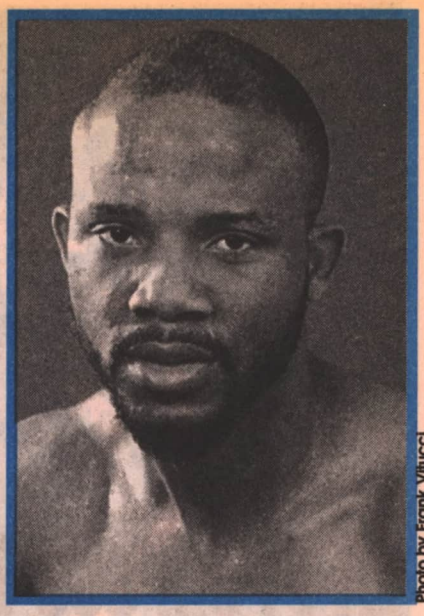


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Nate Miller was far from the first cruiser champ

11. The IBF was formed by officials who broke off from what governing body?
a) WBA
b) WBC
c) Nevada State Athletic Commission
d) European Boxing Union
e) New Jersey Boxing Commission

12. Which of the following boxers has not been elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame?
a) Michael Spinks
b) Sam Langford
c) Salvador Sanchez
d) Billy Conn
e) Ingemar Johansson

13. Which of the following states does not have a boxing commission?
a) Oklahoma
b) Vermont
c) Colorado
d) Kentucky
e) Oregon

14. A boxer who weighs in over the contracted weight at the weigh-in has how long to make weight?
a) 24 hours
b) 12 hours
c) 6 hours
d) 2 hours
e) The fighter must make weight on his first attempt to weigh in

15. A world title fight goes to purse bids when:
a) The champion and contender have different promoters
b) The champion refuses to fight the top-ranked contender
c) The challenger does not have a promoter
d) Two champions of different organizations agree to meet in a unification match
e) The champion and top-contender cannot agree to purses for a mandatory defense

16. Who was the first champion crowned in the cruiserweight division?
a) Carlos DeLeon
b) Dwight Muhammad Qawi
c) Evander Holyfield
d) Osvaldo Ocasio
e) Marvin Camel

17. True or false? Up to two cornermen can step into the ring to work on a boxer between rounds if he has been cut.

18. By federal law, a state commission must regulate every professional boxing event held in the U.S. starting in June 1998. Until that time, the United States Boxing Association may regulate fights in what jurisdiction?
a) Virginia
b) Washington, D.C.
c) Alabama
d) Connecticut
e) On all Native American reservations

19. In England, a non-title bout is scored by:
a) Three ringside judges
b) One ringside judge
c) The referee
d) Two ringside judges and the referee
e) The commissioner

20. True or false? Water is the only substance a fighter can consume during the course of a bout.

(Answers on page 54) ■

OLYMPIC UPDATE

A Progress Report On America's '96 Team

By Robert Mladinich

It is rare that Olympic competition does not catapult any number of young boxers into the national spotlight. Ever since the 1976 United States team won a then-unprecedented five gold medals and made instant superstars of Sugar Ray Leonard, Howard Davis Jr., Leon and Michael Spinks, and to a much lesser degree, Leo Randolph, the Olympians have been watched with a keen eye. The '84 Games produced the likes of Evander Holyfield and Pernell Whitaker, and the 1992 Games in Barcelona made an instant media sensation out of America's sole gold medalist, Oscar De La Hoya.

The 1996 team, however, was not so fortunate. Not only were there precious few bouts on television, but the only American to take home the gold was junior middleweight David Reid of Philadelphia. Reid came from behind to knock out a heavily favored Cuban, Alfredo Duvergel, in the final round. While the dramatic Rocky-esque victory enabled him to be handsomely rewarded with a lucrative contract from the promotional firm America Presents, unlike De La Hoya, he has not yet caught on with mainstream America. All his teammates have also turned pro, but have toiled in relative anonymity. Nonetheless, slowly but steadily, their careers are picking up speed. It has been a year and a half since the Atlanta Games, and this is a report card on the somewhat obscure Olympians who fought against all odds to make their country proud and merit the attention of the boxing public.

Lawrence Clay-Bey: The super heavyweight was the team's elder statesman at age 30, and was employed as a prison guard in his native Connecticut. Although he had a good degree of physical skills, many felt he lacked the emotional fortitude to compete at the Olympic level. After losing a 10-8 decision to Vladimir Klichko of Ukraine, he said to the assembled press, "Smile, it's not the end of the world. It's the Olympics. Smile."

Clay-Bey then returned home to work at his prison job, and had no real interest in pursuing a pro career. It would be almost a year until he decided to turn professional and belatedly try to capitalize on his Olympic experience. Since signing a promotional agreement with America Presents, he's already had five fights in less than three months. Although the opposition has been standard beginner's fodder, he's scored five knockouts. Even though Clay-Bey is closing in on 32, his promoters have high hopes for him.

"We always thought he was a tremendous talent who was better suited for the professional level," said Dan Goossen of America Presents. "Of course we heard that he lacked focus and interest and that he never put anything behind his training. But he shocked a lot of people, and will continue to shock a lot of people. I guarantee that."

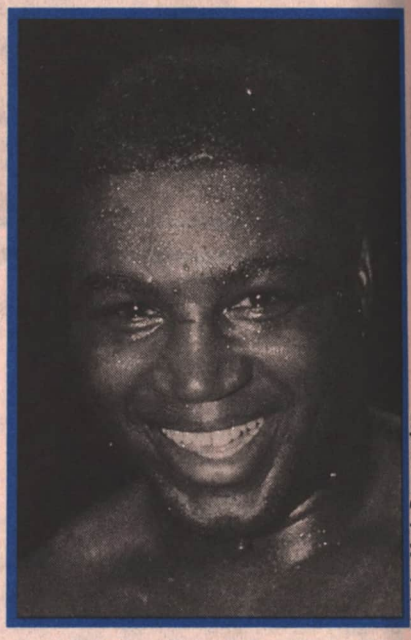


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

America's Olympic super heavyweight Clay-Bey was slow out of the chute, and waited almost a year after the Atlanta Games to turn pro. Since then, however, he's kept busy with a series of wins over the usual suspects.

Goossen also takes umbrage at the fact that there is some criticism about Clay-Bey's relatively advanced age and asserted, "That is really not an issue. He fights

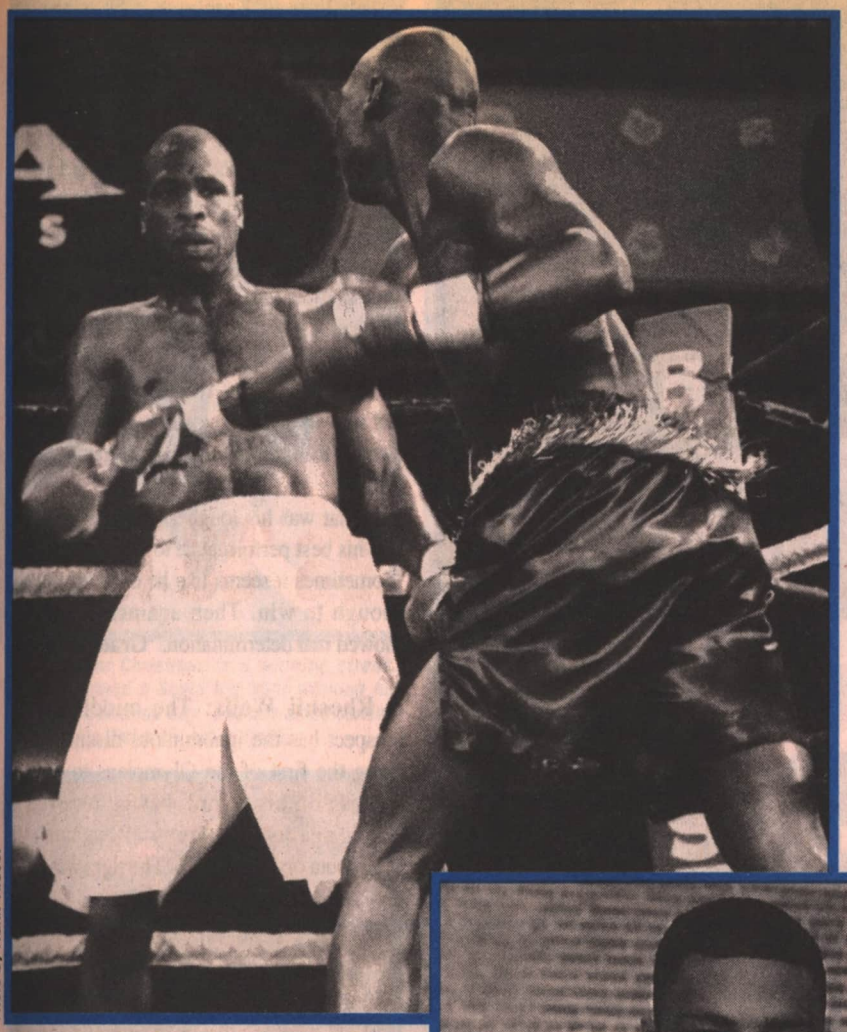


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Light heavyweight Tarver (dark trunks) pleased his promoter by stopping Jason Burrell in the third round of his toughest test to date. The left-hander won a bronze medal in Atlanta.

like he is a veteran of 30 fights, not five."

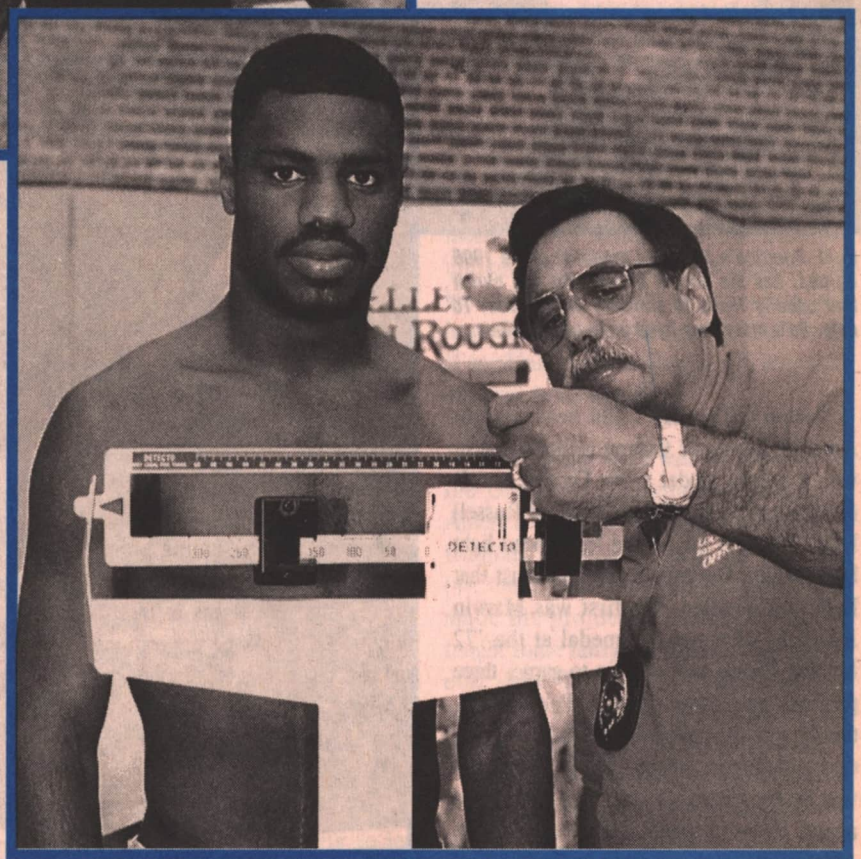
At this juncture, it is difficult to measure Clay-Bey's potential, but it seems as if he at least has the tools to make a little noise in the wide-open division. He has melted 30 pounds off his stocky frame and fights in the 230- pound range. He seems to be improving fairly rapidly, but only time will tell if he will leave his mark or go back to strolling the catwalks in the Big House. **Grade: C**

Nate Jones: The heavyweight Olympic representative from Chicago reached the semifinals in Atlanta and took home a bronze medal. Now 25, he has signed with Don King Promotions and is managed by Carl King. He turned pro in January 1997 and is currently 3-0 (1), with all of his victories coming against non-entities. Standing 6' and weighing around 210 pounds, he is considered somewhat small by today's heavyweight standards, and has been often criticized for having a less than Herculean work ethic. But his natural talent is evident when you consider that he only started boxing in '93 and represented his country in the Olympics only three years later. Prior to the Games, he had also spent 20 months in prison for armed robbery.

Bobby Goodman, the director of boxing for DKP, says Jones' tremendous natural ability will serve him well as a pro as long as he maintains focus and dedication to his craft. He has been training regularly at DKP's Orwell, Ohio, facility.

"He has great fighting instinct and is a good student and a good listener," said Goodman. "He is not a real big heavyweight, but he makes up for the size with that natural instinct and decent power. I think Nate has finally learned that this is not just a sport, but a profession. He seems willing to make all the necessary sacrifices."

Coming from Goodman, who is known for his honest appraisals, that is a somewhat heady compliment. **Grade: C**



Middleweight Wells weighs in for his first pro fight. Despite the fact he's the only member of the 1996 Olympic team not to have won all of his pro bouts, the talented prospect's recent draw with Anthony Bonsante might turn out to be a good thing in the long run.

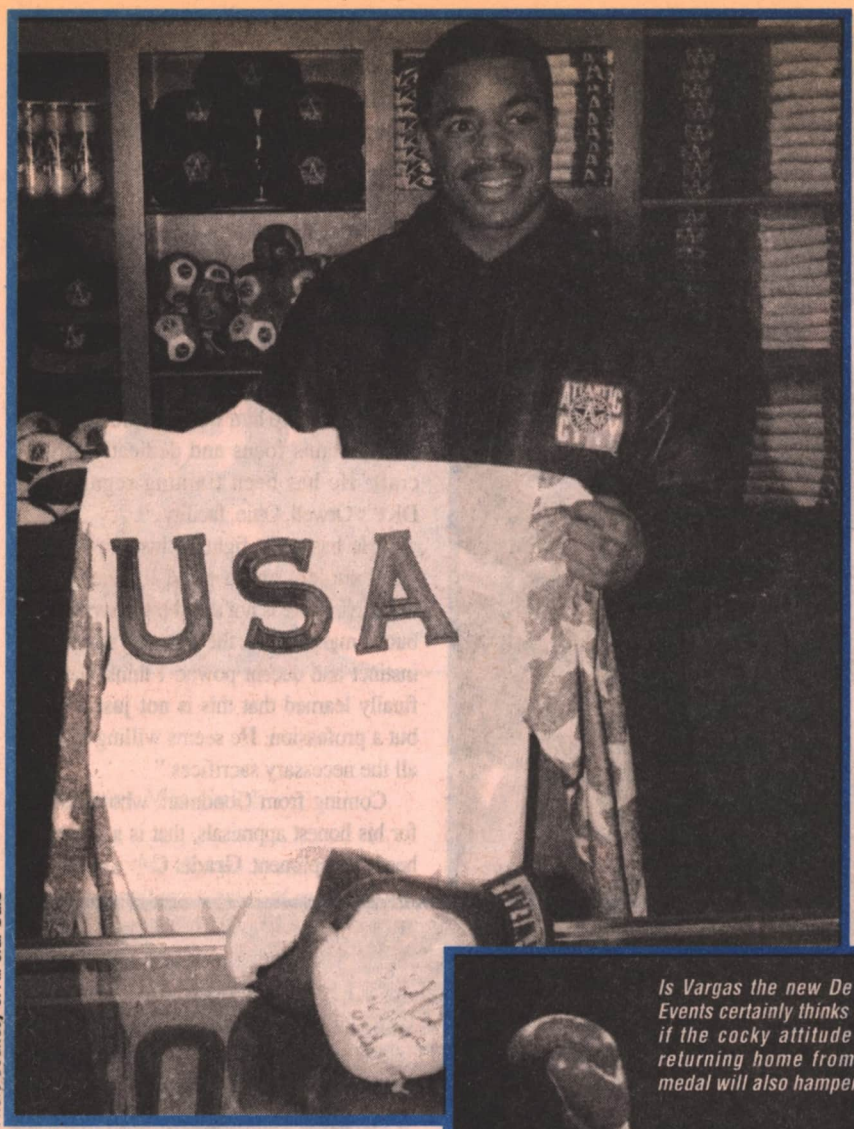


Photo courtesy of All-Star Cafe

Reid, America's only gold medalist at the 1996 Games, has the sort of personality and punch that usually leads to stardom in the pros. To date, he's more than lived up to expectations.

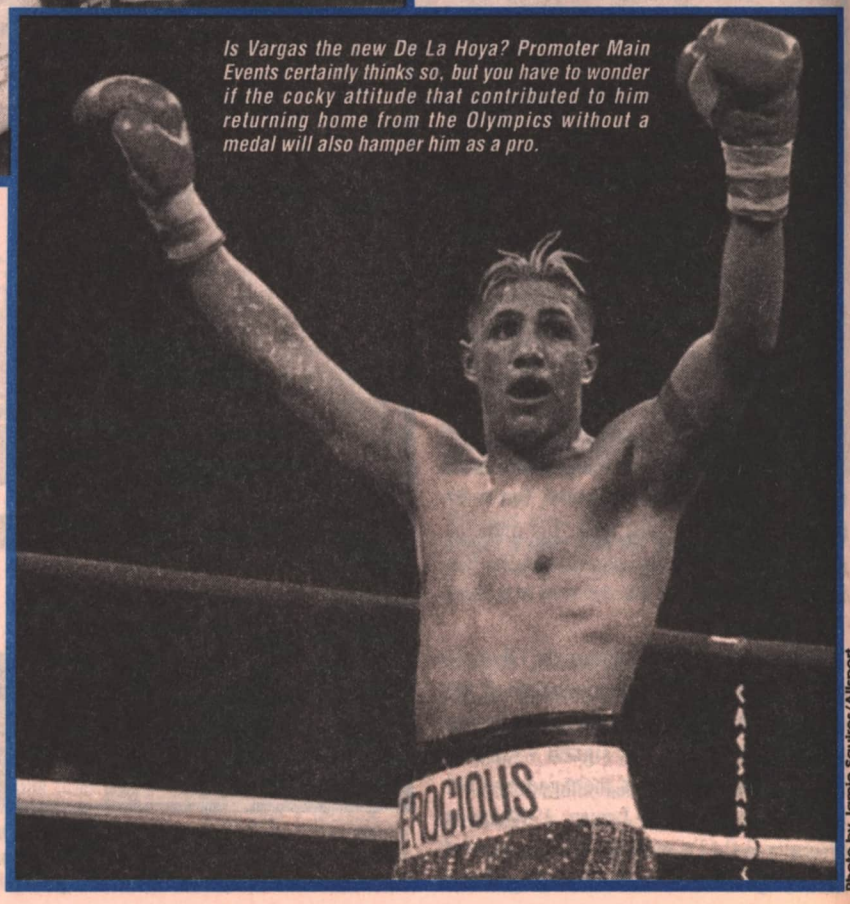
Antonio Tarver: Light heavyweight Antonio Tarver of Orlando, Florida, also won a bronze medal at the Games, and is now promoted by Philadelphia's J Russell Peltz. Tarver is the second left-handed light heavyweight Olympic bronze medalist that Peltz has handled. His first was Marvin Johnson, who won his medal at the '72 Munich Games and went on to garner three professional championships. Peltz is cautiously optimistic about having the same success with Tarver, whose Olympic reputation was deemed lethargic and cocky for good reason. He was booed lustily in his first bout. Although he won the fight, he had gorged himself on McDonald's burgers just prior to the bout. He eventually lost a decision to Vassili Jirov of Kazakstan, who is now an undefeated professional fighting for Top Rank. Tarver's pro ledger is 5-0 (4).

"If he was a smaller guy, I probably would not have been interested in him," said Peltz. "What attracted me to him was a lot of ability and the fact that he is a light heavyweight, which is a wide-open division right now. Besides Roy Jones being there, there is a lot of money to be made in Germany, and the best fighters over there certainly seem beatable."

Peltz admits that Tarver has a lot to learn, but was impressed with how well he performed in his toughest fight, against Jason Burrell.

"That was his toughest fight to date, and also his best performance to date," said Peltz. "Sometimes it seems like he only fights hard enough to win. Then against Burrell he showed real determination." **Grade: C+**

Rhoshii Wells: The middleweight prospect has the ignominious distinction of being the first of the Olympians to have a blemish on his record, having received a draw against Anthony Bonsante in Minnesota on October 10. The fight was tele-



Is Vargas the new De La Hoya? Promoter Main Events certainly thinks so, but you have to wonder if the cocky attitude that contributed to him returning home from the Olympics without a medal will also hamper him as a pro.

Photo by Jamie Squires/Allsport

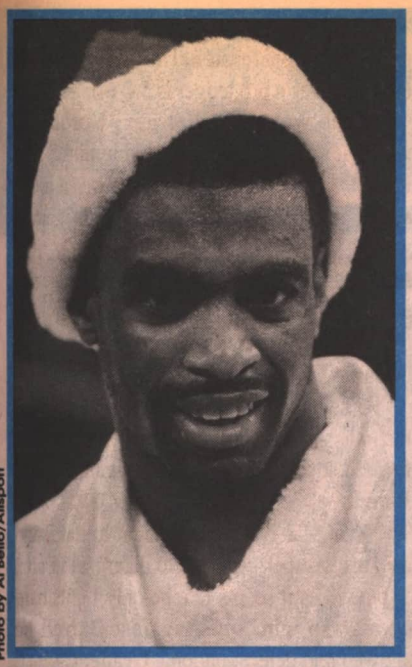


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

All I want for Christmas is a winning streak. Cauthen donned a Santa hat after winning his pro debut in Atlantic City, and has since carried on to win his first eight pro outings.

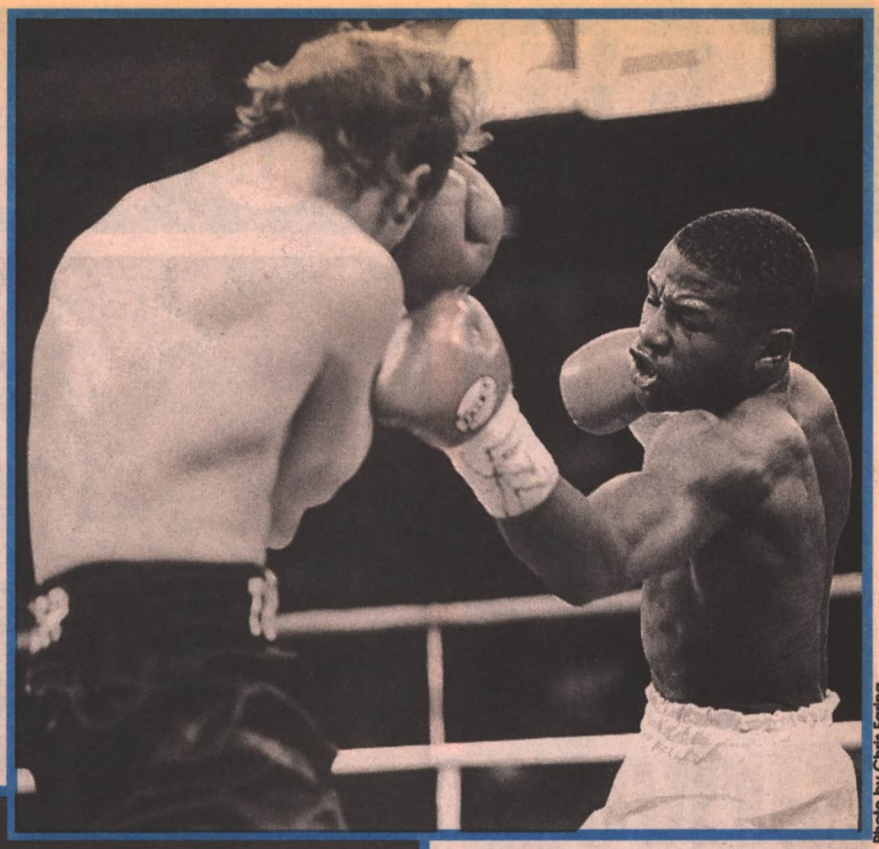
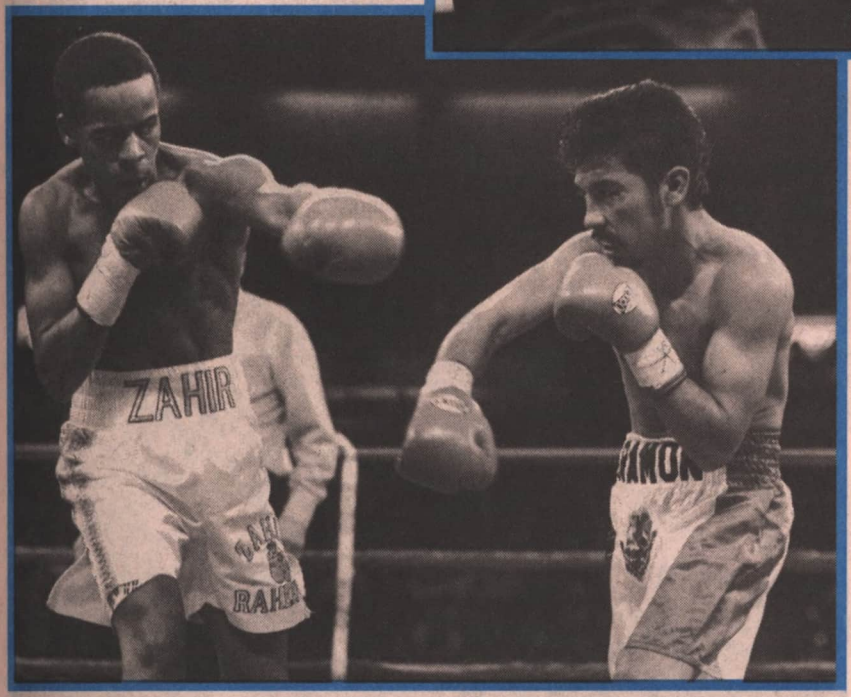


Photo by Chris Farina

It's hard to find somebody who doesn't think Mayweather, pictured en route to a first-round kayo of Jerry Cooper, is a lock to enjoy a highly successful pro career.



Featherweight Raheem coasted to a relatively easy decision over Ramon Aragon (pictured), but had a much tougher time when he fought Lionel Odom. In that one, the Philadelphian had to twice come off the deck to finally stop his rival in the fifth round.

vised on ESPN2, and announcer Al Bernstein scored the bout for Wells, three rounds to one. The bronze medalist saw his pro ledger dip to 3-0-1 (2), but he managed to get over his initial disappointment rather quickly. The way he handled the draw says more about him as a prospect than the fight itself.

"I've learned that even though I'm just starting out, other fighters see a fight against an Olympic medalist as a big opportunity and they'll be gunning for me," he said. "I'm never going to let another fight even be close."

The 24-year-old Atlanta native is 5'11", has excellent power, and with his positive attitude, should be a real force in the years to come. He lost a tough semifinal fight in the Olympics to eventual gold medalist Ariel Hernandez of Cuba, and it's unlikely that the momentary setback of being held to a draw by Bonsante will impede his progress in any significant way. If anything, many believe he will only benefit from it. **Grade: B-**

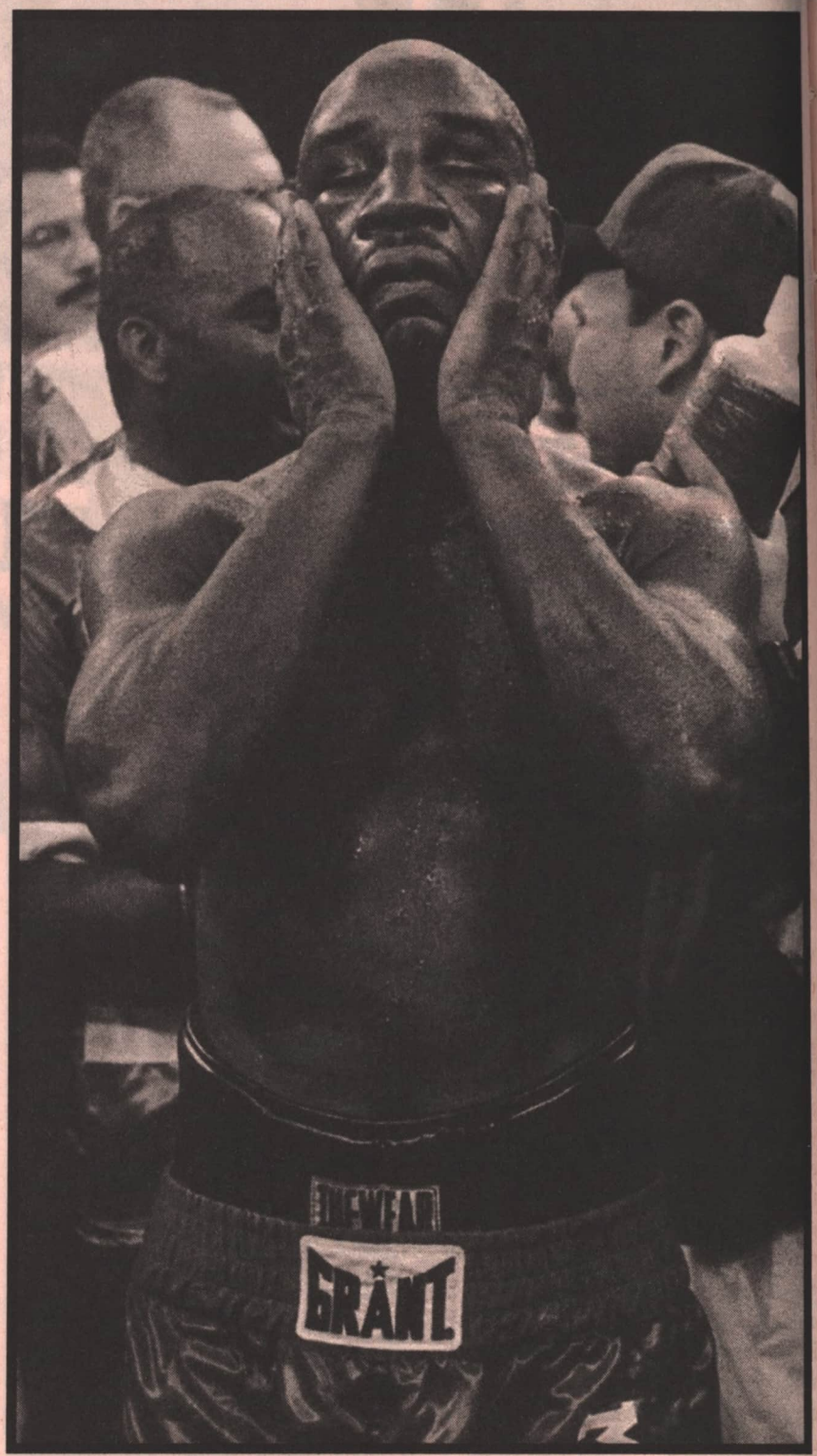
David Reid: Reid was the superstar of the Olympics, and since signing with America Presents, has made himself into a fledgling professional megastar. Now 5-0 (4), the 23-year-old junior middleweight made his pro debut on HBO, and has fought some fairly formidable competition ever since. In October, in only his fifth bout, he stopped former welterweight champion Jorge Vaca in just 46 seconds.

The American press has developed an affinity for Reid that should last until he starts looking less than stellar. Many question whether he is being moved so fast that his lack of professional experience will

(Continued on page 57)

MAD AS HELL...

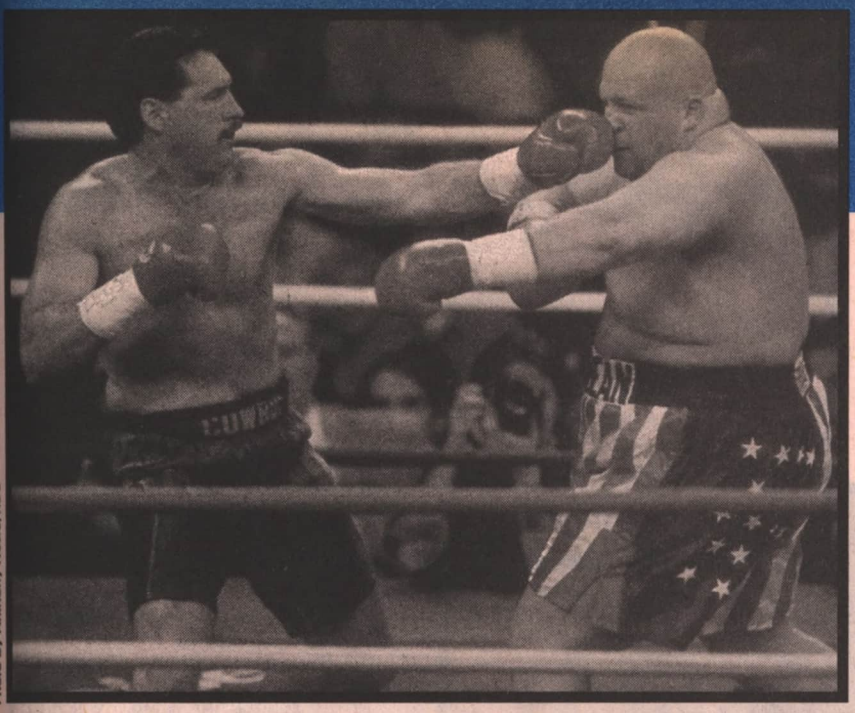
The Things That Drive Boxing Fans Crazy!



Keith Mullings wasn't the only one who couldn't believe it when junior welter champ Raul Marquez got the decision in their recent bout. There's nothing like an unjust decision to make fans furious.

By Ivan G. Goldman

Boxing fans are always hoping to see two evenly matched, talented guys duke it out hard. Then, when it's over, we expect the fighter who actually won to be awarded the victory. Which doesn't seem like a lot to ask. But when the promoters, the commissions, the judges, the referees, and the whole earthly mix of politics and incompetence screw it up, when we see once again that boxing is



There's no denying that Butterbean, pictured getting a nose job from Bill Eaton, can be enjoyable to watch at times. But boxing purists get hot under the collar when some fans take boxing's biggest sideshow seriously.

no purer than Newt Gingrich or Bill Clinton, we get angry.

The scope of this anger can range from mild annoyance to resentment to our blood-boiling rage when we see a deserving fighter robbed. That's when the fury meter goes off the gauge. Because when boxing isn't fair, it's been plundered of all the qualities that make it special.

Sometimes we see something so unjust we end up screaming at the cosmos like a character who came out on the wrong end of a Greek tragedy. Precisely at this moment, when we are reduced to babbling at the intrinsic wretchedness of existence, we have to endure someone entering the room to tell us, "What did you expect? That's what you get for watching that stuff." *Arrggh!* Maybe it's time to move into that cave in the Himalayas—the one that's not wired for cable.

But we always give boxing another chance. Because if the fighters can endure it, we can, too. And we know if we stay with it, if we keep watching for it, then every once in a while we will see a moment so pure, it will, in that instant, erase all the garbage and bring us home.

From the letters we receive, we are very much aware that our readers are the most knowledgeable in the world. When we miss something, you let us know. So it's with a heavy sense of responsibility and red-hot rage that we hereby list, in no particular order, what makes boxing fans angry.

- Three words: Pay-Per-View.
- Worse than that, closed-circuit.
- Even worse than that: Crummy fights on pay-per-view or closed circuit.
- Hometown decisions.
- Las Vegas decisions.
- "No mas."
- Anyone who takes Butterbean seriously.

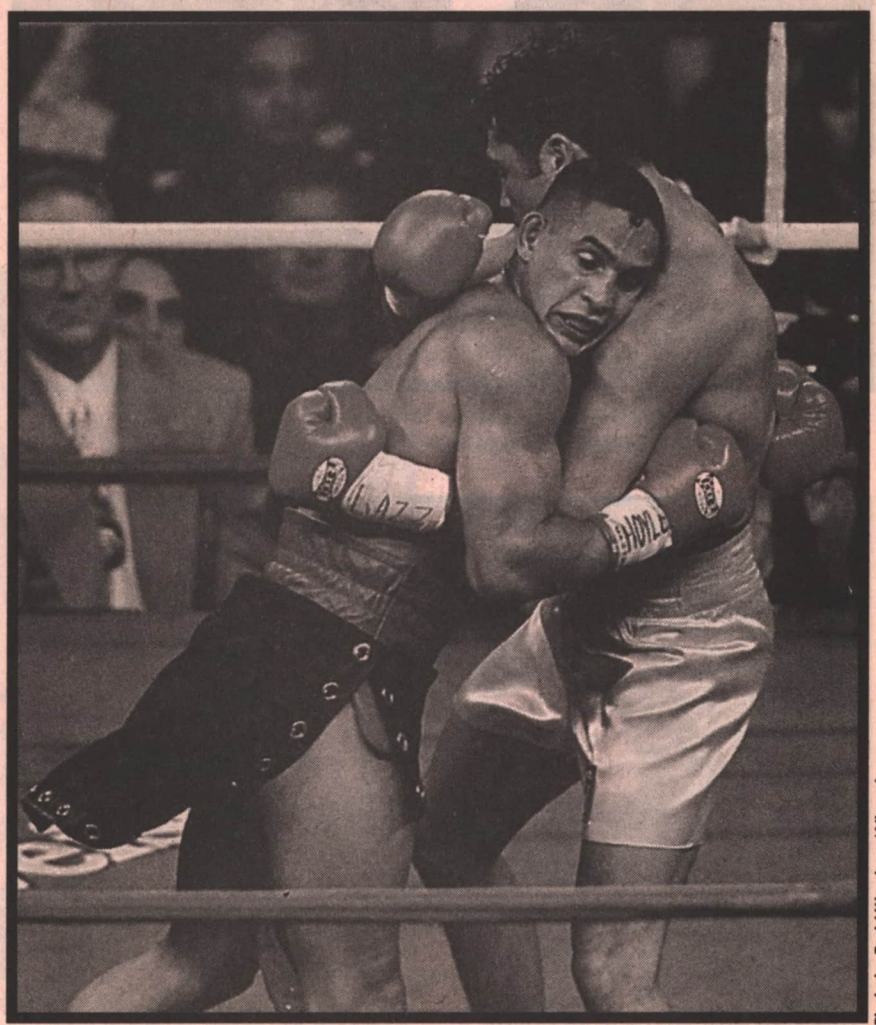
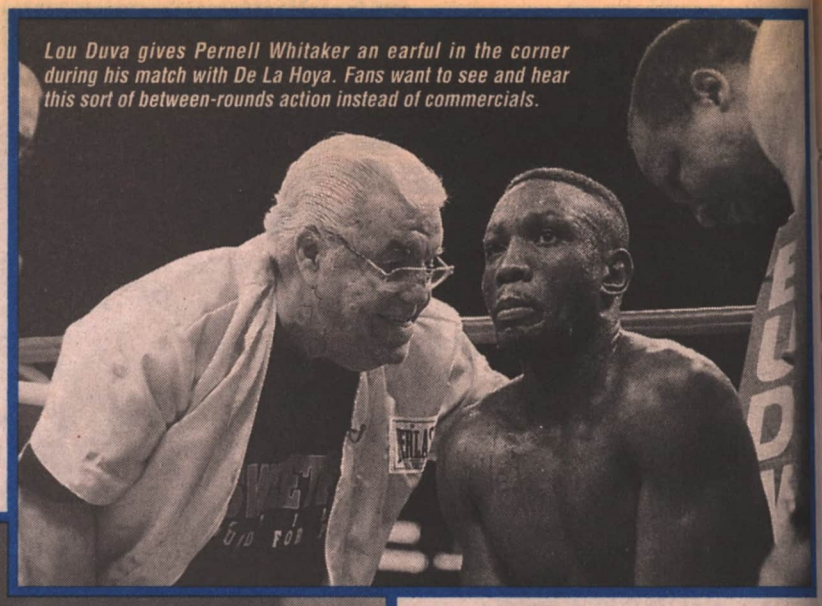


Photo by Todd Warshaw/Allsport

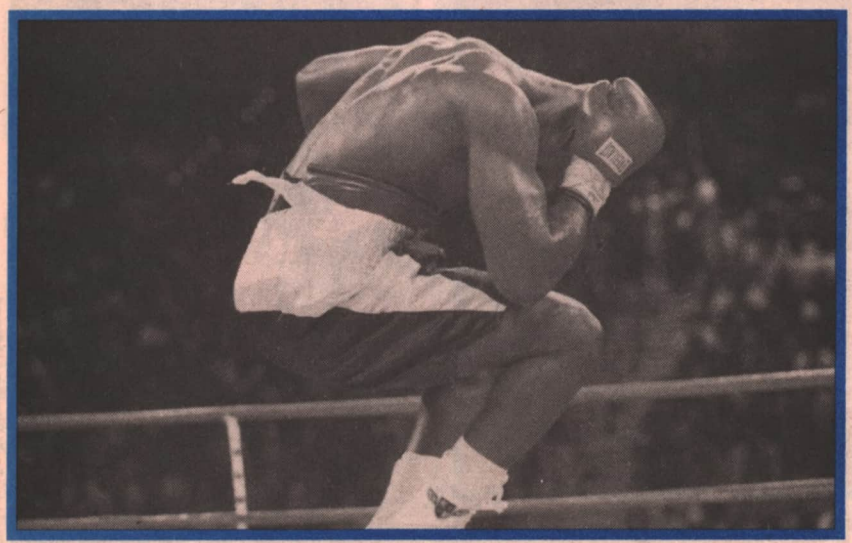
Did anybody believe TVKO commentator George Foreman when he told viewers that Camacho was doing his best to beat De La Hoya? Savvy fans are insulted by such moronic pronouncements.

- Fighters who can't get lucrative fights because they fight too well.
- Fighters who get lucrative fights because they can't fight.
- Idiots who see a fix in every fight.
- Industrial-strength idiots who believe fighters earning $10-million purses will take a dive.
- Managers who screw fighters.
- Fighters who screw managers.
- Promoters who screw everybody.
- Which brings us to anyone stupid enough or corrupt enough to offer Don King a microphone. Forget about the guy he stomped to death.



Lou Duva gives Pernell Whitaker an earful in the corner during his match with De La Hoya. Fans want to see and hear this sort of between-rounds action instead of commercials.

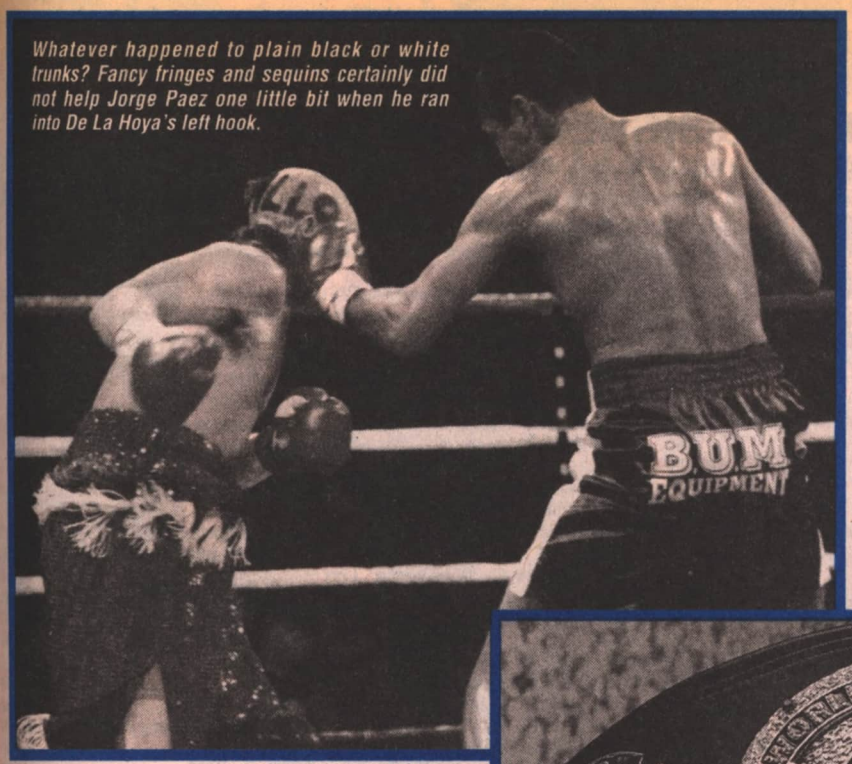
Is light heavyweight champion Roy Jones getting too full of himself? The fact that he frequently refers to himself in the first person is a good indication that he is.



It's sad that most major media outlets pay no attention to boxing until something like the biting incident comes along. And it's even sadder that ABC forked out millions to show Tyson-Holyfield II.

Don, take your money and shut up already.

- Not enough alphabet organizations. Fans get fed up when we see there are still a few three-letter combinations no one is using.
- Ex-fighters collecting aluminum cans.
- Ten-dollar parking spaces.
- Five-dollar cups of beer.
- Cornermen willing to stay in there until the last drop of their fighter's blood has been spilled. When your kid's getting hammered and he's got nothing left, sending him out for more punishment makes about as much sense as the income tax code—and carries all the entertainment value of a lion gobbling a Christian. These same fearless cornermen, by the way, are usually the guys who forgot to bring ice, Enswell, or a clue as to what's going on.
- Newspapers, magazines, and all the other media outlets that ignore boxing until someone gets an ear bitten off. Which brings us to ...
- ABC executives. Once a vital part of the boxing family, these guys walked away from the sport, then returned years later waving a million-dollar check so they could broadcast a replay of the Tyson-Holyfield II freak show. This is equivalent to a world-class vintner shutting down his winery, then reopening the building so he can operate a meth lab in the basement. The fact is, even when



Whatever happened to plain black or white trunks? Fancy fringes and sequins certainly did not help Jorge Paez one little bit when he ran into De La Hoya's left hook.

these people presented boxing shows, they were mostly sandwiched inside ABC's *Wide World Of Sports*. This meant we had to endure an hour or so of golf and drag-racing before the fight started.

- All those commercials between rounds. Keep the cameras in the corner and let us listen in, even when they're talking Bulgarian. A peek at the ring card girl wouldn't hurt either.
- Then there are those pathetic peddlers who try to squeeze in more than 60 seconds of commercials between rounds. We just know what will happen. The screen cuts back from an after-shave spiel to show the referee reaching the end of a 10-count.
- Beer frogs, beer lizards. Enough already. Do you have to show the same commercials over and over and ...
- George Foreman's babbling fight commentary. The last straw was when he told us Hector Camacho was trying his best to beat Oscar De La Hoya. Stick to the muffler commercials, George.
- Ferdie Pacheco's all-time disgraceful comments during the tragic Nigel Benn-Gerald McClellan bout. When McClellan finally went down on one knee after absorbing some of the most fierce punishment ever meted out in a boxing ring, *Dr.* Pacheco repeatedly questioned his courage.
- Boxers who, after achieving fantastic financial success, become so spoiled they begin to act like basketball play-

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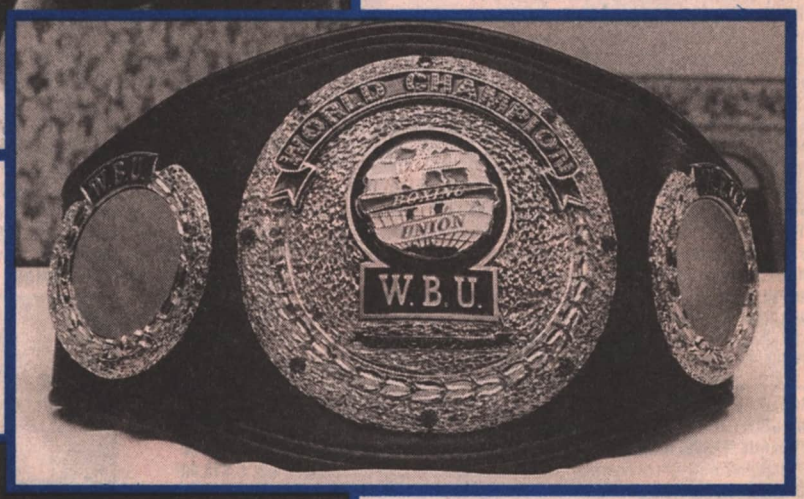

Are there any letters of the alphabet that haven't been used by the various governing bodies? Naturally, the proliferation of these self-serving organizations is something that angers all true boxing fans.

Photo by Joy Lash

Color analyst Bobby Czyz, seen with blow-by-blow man Steve Albert, is probably the only member of Showtime's broadcasting team—once described by Cedric Kushner as "pimps" for Don King—who doesn't agitate viewers. Czyz' indignation when Tyson bit Holyfield was on-target.

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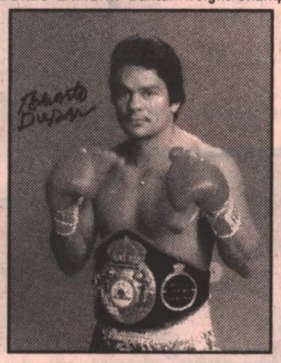

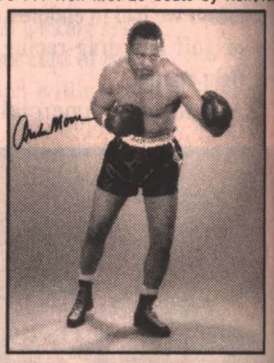

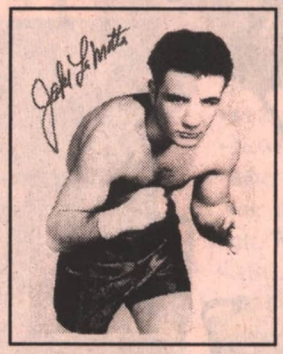

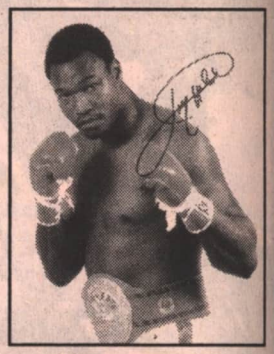

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Rule Britania. Lewis, along with manager Frank Maloney and trainer Emanuel Steward, awaits the start of the Andrew Golota fight. A few minutes later, the WBC heavyweight champion answered all his critics with a stunning first-round knockout victory.

LENNOX LEWIS COMES IN FROM THE COLD

They Couldn't Freeze Him Out Forever

Photo by Jamie Squires/Allsport

By **Brian Doogan**

In a city where fortunes are won and lost on the throw of a die, Lennox Lewis proved himself the best snakes and ladders player in heavyweight boxing. This is not the preferred game of the high-rollers who grace and pace the casinos of Atlantic City. But it is the game Lewis has become accustomed to in his quest to claim a prize far richer than any pay-out on a craps table—the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world.

The 95-second demolition that transformed Andrew Golota's reputation from

Photo by Jamie Squires/Allsport

As soon as he got Golota in trouble, Lewis jumped on his challenger and opened up with both hands. As the punches rained down on his head, the Polish slugger sank to the floor.

low-puncher to no-puncher also pushed Lewis as high up the heavyweight ladder as he has been, higher if you are to judge by the wide-open mouths on show in the ringside section filled by the American press at the moment Golota capitulated. It brought to an end five years spent in the wilderness, five years in which the man Emanuel Steward, his trainer, describes as "the best heavyweight he's ever seen—Muhammad Ali included" was in danger of becoming just another heavyweight. And the way Lewis sees it, the snakes were to blame.

"All the politics involved in boxing, all the double-crossing and cheating, left a bitter taste at times, made me contemplate throwing it all away," said Lewis in the laid-back, gentle way that owes more to a Caribbean heritage than to a childhood spent in London or to subsequent years in Canada. "Certain people tried to freeze me out. But I was determined they would not succeed."

First, Riddick Bowe favored dumping the WBC belt in a garbage can over putting it on the line against Lewis. Then a venomous right hand by Oliver McCall separated the title from Lewis after the WBC had awarded it to him retrospectively. Finally, Lewis watched granddaddy Larry Holmes and fellow Brit Frank Bruno—whom Lewis had defeated in seven rounds in Cardiff in 1993—gain title shots he felt he was entitled to instead.

King Cobra himself, Don King, the man with the hair that goes *Ping* in the night, wanted the green belt in the hands of one of his own so that he could deposit matching green notes into his bank account. Bruno's outpointing of McCall paved the way for a straightforward coup d'etat by Mike Tyson, who passed on his obligation—as mandated by a New Jersey court—to meet Lewis in his first defense by paying him step-aside money so he could instead swipe the WBA belt from Bruce Seldon by almost hitting him.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Referee Joe Cortez pulls a rampaging Lewis off of Golota as the groggy challenger slumps to the canvas a second time. What was supposed to be the Englishman's toughest test turned out to be an easy fight.

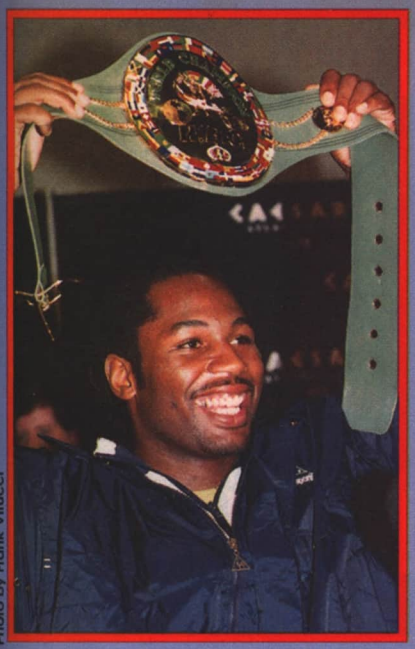


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

While a joyful Lewis (left) was showing the media the belt he had just retained, Golota (right) was being taken to hospital after suffering an anxiety attack in his dressing room. The stricken fighter was kept overnight for observation and released the next day.

Seldon fell anyway, and with the WBA belt secured, Tyson relinquished the WBC title and again Lewis languished on the periphery.

"It has been construed that Lennox did not want to fight Tyson when he took $4-million and allowed Tyson to face Bruce Seldon," reflected Lewis' London promoter and financial backer and also the biggest liquidator in Britain, Panos Eliades. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Tyson's people paid $4-million *to avoid fighting* Lennox. Tyson did not want to know. Lennox had then to look to a different horizon."

Wins over McCall, who was in no condition to fight, and Henry Akinwande, who simply did not want to, hardly strengthened Lewis' credentials, even if he was once again WBC champion. He needed to beat an opponent perceived as something more than a candidate for treatment or a champion of pacifism. He needed to beat someone like Andrew Golota, a free-swinging Pole with all the power of a rhino and all the accuracy of one beheaded.

"I want to prove I'm the best fighter on the planet," Lewis had said. "Certain fights bring out different things in me, and this should bring out some good qualities. I never had the chance to prove myself against Bowe, Tyson, or Holyfield. A lot of people hold Golota in high regard. The public will like this fight. If Golota doesn't resort to his tactics, I plan to knock him out."

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

HBO Sports Vice President Lou DiBella thinks Lewis is the best heavyweight in the world today, and that includes highly regarded WBA champion Evander Holyfield.

In the fight, Golota didn't have the time or the equilibrium to launch his patented cannon ball to the crotch. In 95 seconds of sustained, controlled, ferocious beauty, Lewis dismantled the feared Pole who had finished the career of Riddick Bowe and, in the process, almost disembowelled him. He connected with 30 of 36 power punches he launched at a man who suddenly seemed overcome by demons that took root during a sparring session several years ago in which Golota became acquainted briefly, but all too memorably, with Lewis' overwhelming force. "The lion has awoken," declared a beaming Lewis afterward, but Golota was not the only one experiencing a feeling of deja vu.

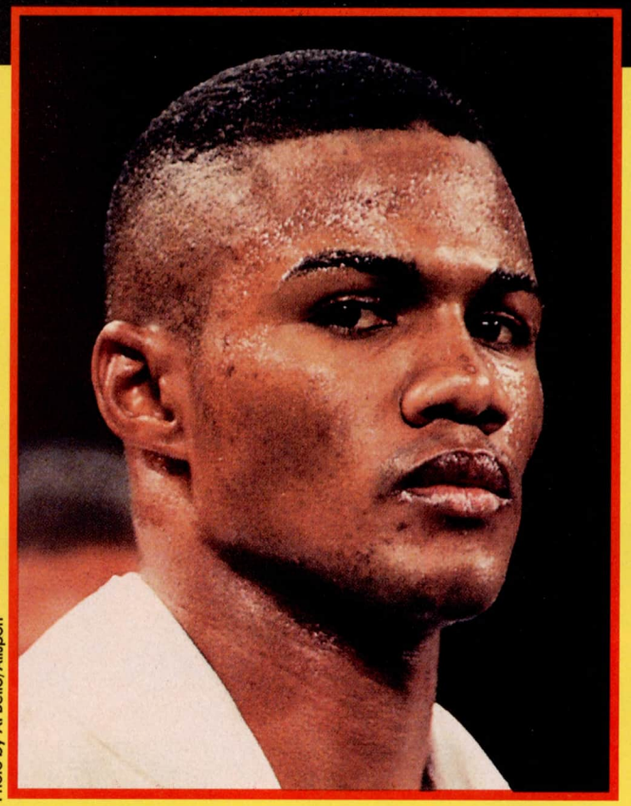
The buildup, the fight, the result, and its significance mirrored almost exactly Lewis' showdown with Donovan "Razor" Ruddock in October 1992. Like Golota,

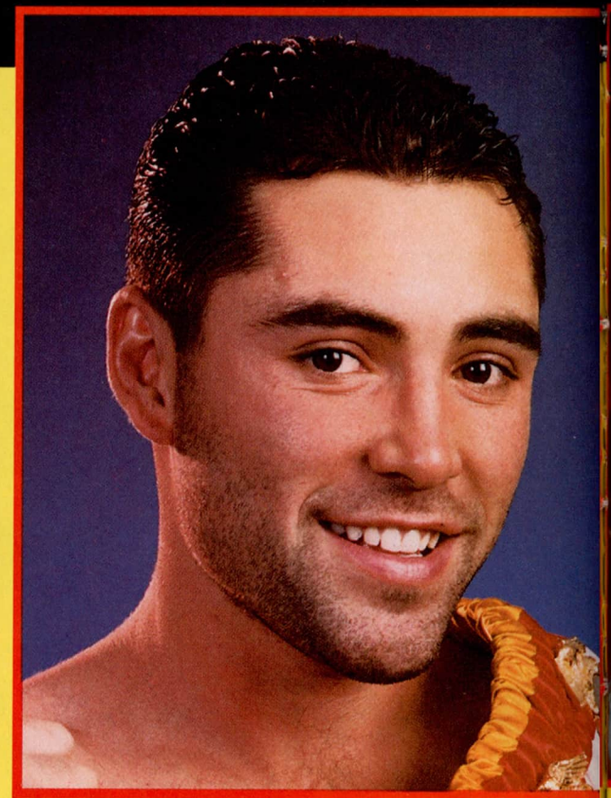
(Continued on page 61)

WELTER-SKELTER!

The Hottest Division In Boxing

Today's welterweight division is one of the strongest in boxing history. From left to right: IBF champion Felix Trinidad, WBC king Oscar De La Hoya, four-division former champ Pernell Whitaker, and WBA titlist Ike Quartey.





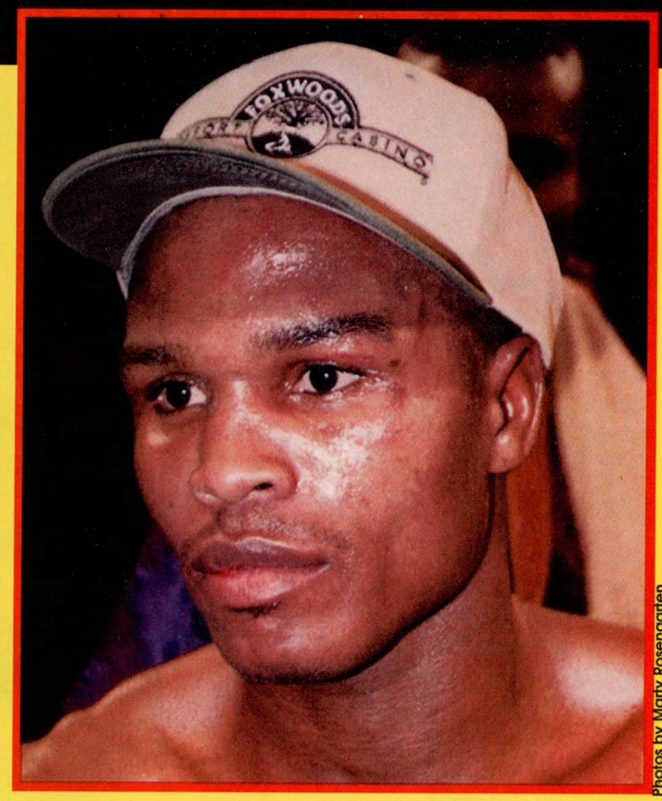


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Photos by Marty Rosengarten

By William Dettloff

Ask any hardcore, long-time fan of the fights to name the period when the heavyweight division was at its best, and he won't hesitate a heartbeat before replying, "The early-1970s." He'd be right, of course. It was a time when icons named Ali, Frazier, and Foreman ruled the world of the big men and took turns thrashing one another and the rest of the division, as though the connotation "legend" could be used only once a century, and each wanted it to describe them. The second tier—consisting of Earnie Shavers, Ken Norton, Jerry Quarry, Oscar Bonavena, and Ron Lyle, among others—would likely have excelled in any other era, but had the great misfortune of competing during the richest, most fertile period in heavyweight history.

In the late-'70s and early-'80s, while the heavyweight division floundered, welterweight stars Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Wilfred Benitez, and Roberto Duran captured our hearts and our attention. And since that group came and went (some more willingly than others), generally, we've recognized them as perhaps the finest assemblage of 147-pounders that has ever existed, with the possible exception of a late-'30s, early-'40s welterweight collection that featured Sugar Ray Robinson, Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, Tommy Bell, and Fritzie Zivic. In their time, this group made up the most talent-laden division in the sport, their battles forever holding a special place in our collective memory.

If you're seeking a modern-day equivalent, look no further than today's 147-pound division. Though not yet possessing the experience of their early-'80s forefathers, WBC king Oscar De La Hoya, WBA champ Ike Quartey, and IBF titlist Felix Trinidad head up what has become by far the game's most intriguing and talented division. Throw in the still-mesmerizing Pernell Whitaker, the exciting Jose Luis Lopez, and, as a wild card, WBC junior middleweight champion Terry Norris, and you have a mix of the most diverse and gifted fighters in the game.

All exciting performers, yes, but the light heavyweights have many good fighters, too, one might argue, and so do the featherweights and even, gasp, the heavyweights. There are several strong divisions out there. What is it about the welterweights you ask? That's easy. There's not a bad fight in the mix. No matter how you slice it, the possibilities are mind-boggling. Superfights galore.

Don't like the contrast in styles between De La Hoya and Whitaker? Try De La Hoya's power and quickness against Trinidad's explosiveness. Or how about the defensive genius of Whitaker against the strength of Quartey? Still not convinced? Try Trinidad against Quartey, or Lopez

against Whitaker. Or how about De La Hoya's left hook against Lopez'? Or a rematch to the wild Quartey-Lopez affair? *(See sidebar.)*

We defy you to make a bad fight among the top six or seven of this division, unless you're among those who think those are the only kind Whitaker is in. There is enough potential and talent here to provide megafights for years to come, and that's the key. It's the same principle that gave us Leonard-Hearns, Duran-Leonard, Hearns-Benitez, and Hearns-Duran: Greatness comes when opposed by similar greatness. A fighter can only become great when pushed by other great fighters. Ali had Frazier and Foreman, Leonard had Hearns and Duran, Armstrong had Ross and Zivic.

"Part of what weighs heavily when making a certain division great is not only talent, but marquee value," trainer Teddy Atlas said recently. "You need to have talent, charisma, and you also need matches. You have to have a dance partner, and each fighter in this division has their own merits and their own strengths and weaknesses. They kind of complement each other."

Atlas is right. The division does not lack dance partners, as he puts it, and the styles of those at the top mesh well. Boxer against puncher, puncher against puncher, boxer/puncher against boxer, whatever. The entire spectrum is represented in the elite of the welterweight division, and each holds strengths and weaknesses that will both help and hurt them when they square off against one another.

Forever the stylist, Whitaker lacks the power of his brethren and has clearly lost a step, but outshines each by far when it comes to defense. He remains the most difficult for any of the others to excel against, if not to beat. Trinidad is probably the best pure puncher of the group, but is hittable, and questions remain about the dependability of his chin after all the knockdowns he has suffered. Quartey appears rock solid and may be physically the strongest of the group, but the Lopez fight revealed some chinks in his armor. And Lopez, while giving the impression of a free-wheeling, heavy-handed brawler, is actually a sound technician, but is prone to lapses in concentration. De La Hoya, who will likely have crushed Wilfredo

EASY PICKIN'S FOR "SWEET PEA"

He may no longer sit atop the talent-rich welterweight division, but at 33, four-division former world champion Pernell Whitaker stayed in the hunt for another title shot, and possibly inched closer toward a rematch with WBC champion Oscar De La Hoya.

In front of a rowdy crowd at the Foxwoods Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut, and as a co-feature to the Ike Quartey-Jose Luis Lopez bout, Whitaker, 149, Norfolk, Virginia, took on 26-year-old Andrei Pestriaev in what was billed at the last minute as a WBA title elimination fight. Pestriaev, 148¼, from Russia by way of Brighton Beach, New York, came in without any world-class opposition on his resume, but with a number-one ranking from the WBA. It didn't help him against "Sweet Pea," who from the start easily connected with his right jab and counterpunches. Fighting in the quasi-aggressive manner that he has adopted over the last several years, Whitaker, 41-2-1 (17), advanced without opposition over the first three rounds, often knocking Pestriaev, 20-2 (15), back to the ropes with stinging bodypunches and right hooks. In the fifth, Pestriaev warmed a bit to the event and began catching Whitaker on the way in with single punches. Pestriaev had his moments throughout the bout, but couldn't land anything of consequence.

Whitaker did what only he can do, as only he can do it, dipping, dodging, spinning, and juking his opponent out of position time and again, almost never getting hit in combination. The bout's only real drama came in the 11th when Pestriaev spun Whitaker on the ropes, and in response Whitaker hung his torso outside the ring. When he came back in, Pestriaev touched him with a pair of soft right hands, prompting Whitaker to squat low with his gloves covering his head and again lean through the ropes. Referee Jim Santa (USA) ruled it a knockdown, drawing boos from the pro-Whitaker crowd. It didn't matter. Judges Glenn Feldman, Don O'Neill, and Tom Kaczmarek, all Americans, scored it surprisingly close at 114-113, 114-113, and 115-112, all for Whitaker. THE RING had it for Whitaker by 117-110.

"I still, after being robbed against De La Hoya, came back to fight the best," Whitaker said after the fight. "And I won." Apparently, the best ain't what it used to be.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Main Events
(10-17-97)

—WD

Pestriaev was pesky, but not much of a threat

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

LOPEZ GIVES QUARTEY A SCARE

We've been waiting a long time for someone to really test WBA welterweight champion Ike Quartey, and finally, the wait is over.

Early on, this fight looked like nothing out of the ordinary. Quartey, 146, making the seventh defense of the title, opened by circling the ring with his hands high, and doing little offensively save for pumping stiff, hard jabs into the face of the 24-year-old Jose Luis Lopez, 146½, Durango, Mexico. In a portent of things to come, 27-year-old Quartey, Accra, Ghana, missed with a wide left hook in the second, which Lopez, 39-3-2 (30), countered with a short, hard right. The champion fell and referee Steve Smoger (USA) correctly ruled it a knockdown, but the damage appeared minimal.

For the next eight rounds, the fight fell into a predictable rhythm, with Quartey, 34-0-1 (29), continuing his assault with that battering ram of a jab, and occasionally tossing in a hard left hook or right hand just to keep Lopez honest. The challenger came forward, but punched infrequently, and when he did, he couldn't land cleanly. Head movement was non-existent on Quartey's part, but with his gloves high and elbows close to his body, he seemed to pick off most of Lopez' blows. Still, by the ninth round, Lopez had scored enough to mark Quartey under his left eye, and the champion appeared winded. Lopez, even heavier-handed than advertised, finished the 10th with a solid flurry that seemed to bother Quartey.

In the 11th, he trapped the tiring champion in a corner and scored with a four-punch combination—left-right, left-right—that sent Quartey sprawling. Quartey rose on unsteady legs with over half the round remaining, and proceeded to clinch, wrestle, and stagger his way to the end, with Lopez in controlled pursuit. The 12th featured more of the same, with Quartey clearly intent on just lasting to the final bell.

Following the fight, the scores of judges Ricardo Duncan (Panama), William Hutt (USA), and Phillipe Verbeke (Belgium)—who scored 116-112, 113-113, and 115-114, respectively—pointed to a majority decision win for Quartey. Several days later, though, the verdict was changed to a draw when it was discovered that Verbeke had added up his scores incorrectly and actually had it 114-114. THE RING had Quartey winning, 115-112. Rematch anyone?

Television: HBO
Promoter: Main Events
(10-17-97)

—WD

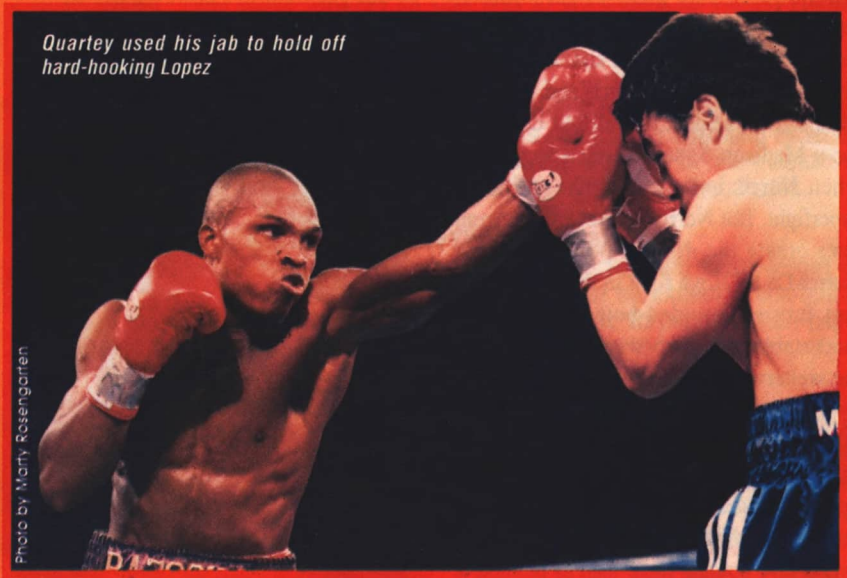


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Quartey used his jab to hold off hard-hooking Lopez

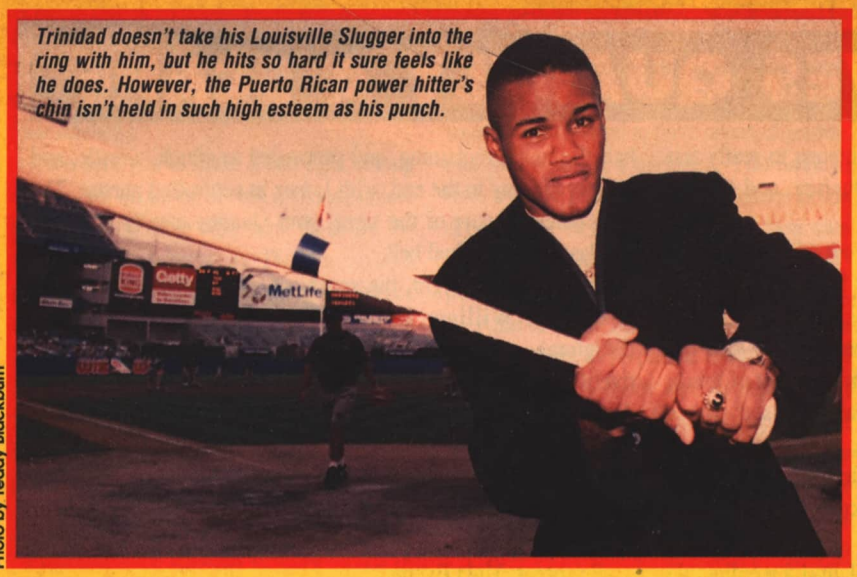
Rivera by the time you read this, appears to possess the power, skills, and speed to best them all, but in some corners there remain whispers, even now, that he is the most brilliantly matched fighter this side of George Foreman. So really, what we have here is a collection of exceptionally talented, marginally flawed prize fighters about whom we have some questions.

One of those questions not being asked is how, as a whole, they rate among the rest of the sport's weight classes in terms of talent and marketability. "There's no question that the welterweight division is the hottest and best in boxing," said Dino Duva, head of Main Events, which promotes Whitaker. "Three or four of the best fighters in the world are in the welterweight division."

Duva isn't blowing smoke. Check out the pound-for-pound ratings in this publication and you'll certainly find De La Hoya, Trinidad, and Whitaker in the top five.

No other division in the sport boasts such a large representation in the pound-for-pound ratings. In fact, none comes close. If there's a heavyweight among the bunch, it's Holyfield. Roy Jones and Ricardo Lopez represent the light heavyweight and strawweight divisions, respectively, and Mark Johnson, a flyweight, Johnny Tapia, a junior bantam, and featherweight Naseem Hamed round out the lower rungs. Notice that with the exception of the welterweights, no weight class is listed more than once. What better barometer can there be to measure the strength of a division?

As if the weight class needed any more depth, consider the ever ominous presence of Norris, who, as it happens, also occupies a top-10 spot in most pound-for pound ratings. Norris, who has severed ties with Don King and now fights under Bob Arum's banner, has long maintained that getting down to the welterweight limit would pose no great problem. Indeed, remember the days when, after seemingly every victory, Norris would go before the mikes and challenge junior welterweight Julio Cesar Chavez to a showdown? Well, he never got Chavez (even King couldn't justify that, and yes, for this we are thank-



Trinidad doesn't take his Louisville Slugger into the ring with him, but he hits so hard it sure feels like he does. However, the Puerto Rican power hitter's chin isn't held in such high esteem as his punch.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

ful), and he's been chasing welterweights ever since. First there were rumors that he and Whitaker were going to get together, then that died when Whitaker temporarily set his sights on Trinidad, and then settled on De La Hoya. Then Norris and Trinidad were signed, sealed, and all but delivered for a Madison Square Garden superfight when Norris bolted from King. End of superfight. But Norris' alliance with Arum does create the distinct possibility of a Norris-De La Hoya fight in the not too distant future, provided both fighters stay marketable and keep winning, which, in the welterweight division, is no easy feat. Even if that doesn't happen, though, Norris taking on one of the other welterweight titlists remains plausible.

"If Norris can make welterweight, we can throw him in the mix," said Duva, who would love nothing more than to promote a welterweight round-robin tournament, with the goal being a unified title. "If he can make the weight, I think he would make a great complement to the rest of the division." In Duva's plan, Whitaker gets his rematch with De La Hoya, and the winner is matched against the survivor of either Quartey-Lopez II or Quartey-Trinidad. Include Norris, and you have an even six fighters and five wonderful matchups.

Tournaments and unified titles are the stuff of which fight fans' dreams are made, but they rarely, if ever, come to fruition. In this complex age of dirty politics, warring television entities, and competing governing bodies, they simply never happen. Complicating matters further, all too many titlists get comfortable with just holding on to their third of a title. Why unify? It's too risky.

One gets the sense, however, that the welterweights aren't just giving lip service when they talk of consolidating the belts. Whitaker, for instance, despite speaking of retirement just before his victory over Andrei Pestriaev *(see sidebar)*, gives the impression of a fighter who is bent on more than just another big fight or two before departing. De La Hoya, if you listen to the publicity machine, wants the biggest fights out there, and his rapid climb up in weight from his days as a lightweight all but mandates that several come at 147 pounds. Trinidad has been on the verge with both Whitaker and Norris, and although he's threatened several times to jump up to junior middleweight, he knows the big-money fights are at 147. He'll stay as long as he can.

And Quartey's willingness to meet Lopez, rather than a less dangerous opponent, speaks well to his intentions.

In the event that the unthinkable happens and the elite of the division don't all meet in the near future to settle things, there is no shortage of willing, able-bodied welterweight contenders available to keep them busy until they do.

Despite having failed in title tries against Trinidad and Quartey, Detroit's Oba Carr remains a dangerous veteran capable of troubling anyone in the division. He floored Trinidad early in their bout before succumbing to "Tito's" bigger weapons, and, in spots, befuddled Quartey before being ground down by the champion's superior strength. Recently, Carr engaged in a hometown war with the rejuvenated Anthony "Baby" Jones, another veteran who, though his best days appear to be behind him, may still make some noise. Bolillo Gonzalez, France's Patrick Charpentier, and newcomer Vernon Forrest round out the bottom half of the division, showing promise early in their respective careers.

Despite his pretty-boy image, De La Hoya turns into a cold-blooded assassin once the bell rings. Check out the intense look on his face as he rips into Miguel Angel Gonzalez en route to a 12-round decision.

For now, though, and for the foreseeable future, the stars of the welterweight division—and of boxing—are named De La Hoya, Trinidad, Quartey, Whitaker, and Lopez. Which one will be standing tall in boxing's best division after all the rosin has settled? Damned if we know. But we plan to enjoy the ride. ■

William Dettloff is a freelance writer based in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

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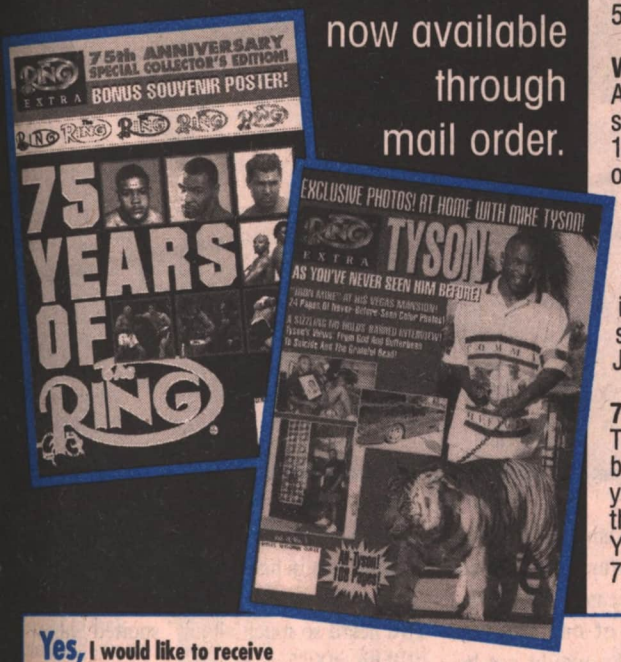

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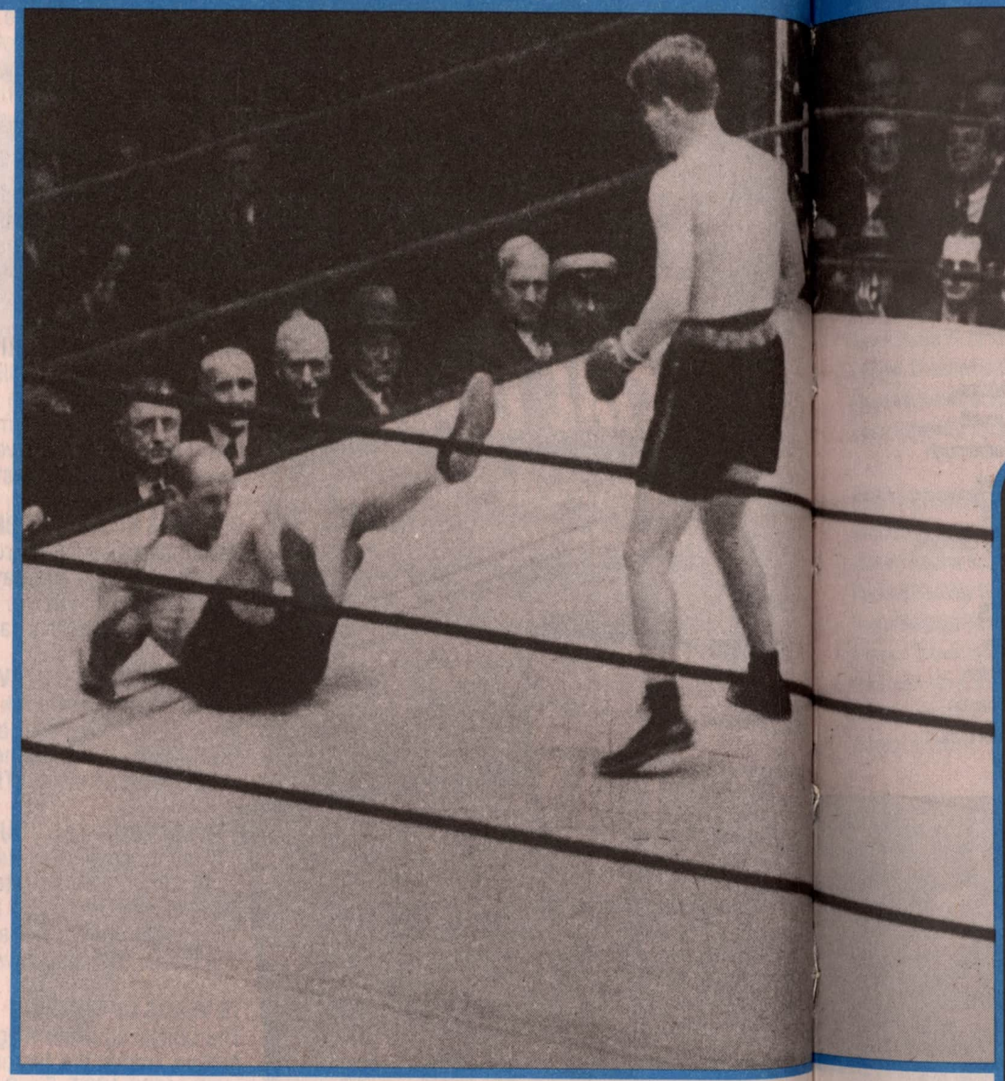
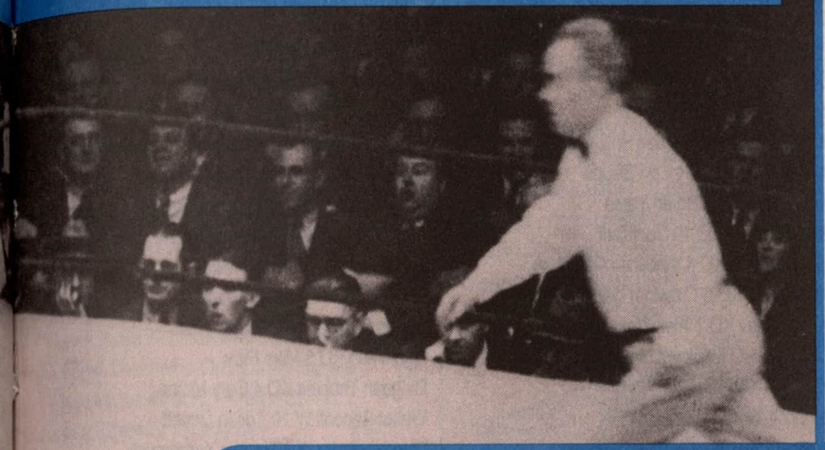
Art "The Great" Shires:

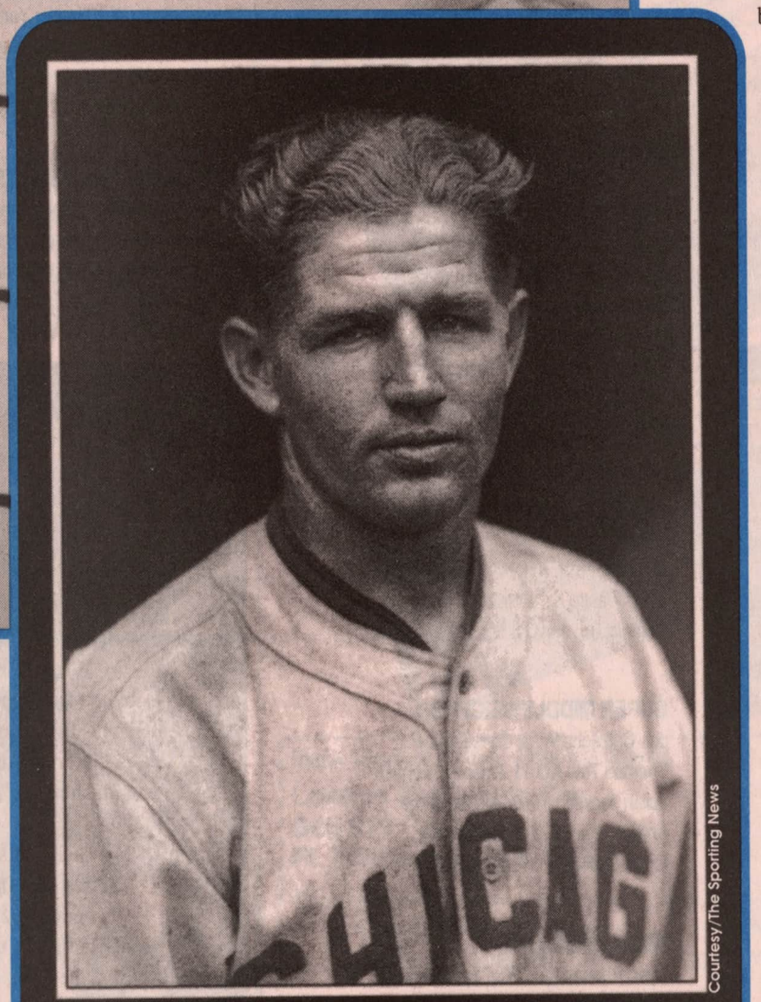
BANNED FROM BASEBALL, HE COMES OUT SWINGING

By Pete Ehrmann





Shires knocked down Al "Baldy" Spoher in the second round of their baseball-player-vs.-baseball-player fight in Boston (above). Shires, shown at right on a 1929 baseball card, beat Spoher by fourth-round TKO.



ART SHIRES
CHICAGO WHITE SOX –1ST BASE 1929

Courtesy/The Sporting News

Boxing and baseball do not mix. That's not a personal opinion or a historical perspective, but rather the official edict of the commissioner of America's National Pastime, handed down almost 70 years ago, after a first baseman became the most famous boxer in the country for a dizzying month and a half.

Like the national economy in early-1929, boxing was on the cusp of a yawning depression after a decade of prosperity. There wasn't even a heavyweight champion at the time. Gene Tunney had retired as titleholder the year before, and the throne would be vacant for two years before Max Schmeling occupied it by grabbing his groin and complaining he'd been Golota'd by Jack Sharkey in their title match.

With the marquee division bereft of a figurehead, the ring was ripe for an onslaught of looniness. It came in the lushly pompadoured form of one Charles Arthur Shires, whose like would not be seen again in boxing for about 35 more years, when another loud, preening heavyweight went around chirping that he was "The Greatest."

The rhetorical similarities—there were no others—between Shires and Muhammad Ali are startling, even down to their self-coined nicknames. Shires was "The Great," which he anointed himself in 1928, on the day he was called up to the big leagues by the Chicago White Sox and got four hits in his first game.

"So this is the great American League I've heard so much about," snorted Shires. "I'll hit .400!"

Born in Massachusetts, but raised in Italy, Texas, Shires was instantly labeled "eccentric"—that era's buzzword for trouble. Instead of waiting in the on-deck circle for his turn at the plate, he would stride around in front of the stands yelling, "Say there, you up there. Aren't you glad you came? You can tell your great-grandchildren that you actually saw 'The Great Shires'!"

At a banquet in Arkansas one year during spring training, Shires declared that the Razorback State "enjoyed a great advantage over other states that it doesn't realize. It adjoins Texas, the state that produced two great men—Art Shires and Davey Crockett."

Shires' brashness had a point besides the one on his head: "I want [fans] to say, 'Why that big bum! I hope he strikes out every time he's up.' I want them to say that, and baby, just about then I'll lam one out of the park. They'll come back again to see me fan some other day, and rub it in, but that's great. Just so they come back."

They did, and in his rookie year the 6'1", 180-pound Shires—who was also known as "Whataman"—batted 123 times and posted a very robust .341. The White Sox, realizing they had a winner, both at the plate and the gate, gave their young star free rein to indulge in his eccentricity. Later, Shires would recall, "They had a terrible ball club down there, and the customers were not coming. So they started to make a clown out of me. Every time I did anything, they rushed into print with it. Other players drank, but the club officials always try to hush those things up. When I took a drink, they couldn't get to the newspaper fast enough."

But drinking was only half of it. One day, as the '29 season was winding down and the Sox were playing in Philadelphia, Shires and his roommate were tilting a few when a knock on their hotel door reminded them that Prohibition was still in effect. Fearing a raid, the teammates tossed the case of booze they'd been sampling out the 14th-floor window. When Shires opened the door, it was only Sox manager Lena Blackburne, upon whom Whataman took out his anger over the wasted hooch by blackening the manager's eyes in a brawl for which the .312-hitting first baseman was suspended indefinitely.

(Continued on page 54)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

David Izon KO 5 Lou Savarese
Hasim Rahman W 12 Obed Sullivan
Tim Witherspoon KO 1 Levi Billups
Oliver McCall KO 8 Bryan Yates
Robert Hawkins KO 10 Gary Bell
Zeljko Mavrovic KO 4 Vincenzo Cantatore
Brian Nielsen KO 6 Crawford Grimsley
Oleg Maskaev KO 7 Alex Stewart
Ed Mahone KO 8 Everett Martin
Cody Koch KO 3 Booker Word
Jade Scott W 10 Mike Dixon
Ramon Garvey KO 1 Robert Chestnut
Pele Reid KO 9 Eli Dixon
Alonzo Highsmith KO 1 Sean Jegen
Monte Barrett KO 6 Val Smith
Butterbean KO 4 Ken Tulsa

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Carl Thompson W 12 Ralf Rocchigiani
Saul Montana W 12 Kenny Keene
Vassili Jirov KO 1 Quentin Osgood
Johnny Nelson KO 1 Dirk Wallyn
Jacob Mofokeng KO 2 Isaac Mahlangu
Dale Brown KO 1 Bobby Crabtree
Kelly Oliver KO 8 John Keeton

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Dariusz Michalczewski KO 7 Nicky Piper
Ole Klemetsen KO 2 Crawford Ashley
Jorge Castro KO 4 Nicasio Moray
Antonio Tarver KO 3 Benito Fernandez

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Joe Calzaghe W 12 Chris Eubank
Thomas Tate KO 11 Joseph Kiwanuka
Julian Jackson KO 3 Lalo Gutierrez
Antoine Byrd KO 8 Willie Monroe
Omar Sheika W 6 Pat Pernsley

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Ryan Rhodes KO 2 Yuri Epifantsev
Michael Ward KO 8 Patrick Swann
Giovanni Pretorious KO 7 Roland Francis
Fighting Nordin KO 1 Hassen Mokar
Rhoshii Wells D 4 Anthony Bonsante

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Fidel Hernandez KO 6 Brandon Mitchem
Cleveland Corder KO 2 Ricky Stockton
Leonard Townsend W 10 Nelson Hernandez
Robert Frazier KO 10 Vincent Thompson
Ramone Arrellano KO 3 Juan Gutierrez

WELTERWEIGHTS

Ike Quartey D 12 Jose Luis Lopez
(Retains WBA Title)
Pernell Whitaker W 12 Andrei Pestriaev
Alfred Ankamah W 10 Oscar Gonzalez
Derrell Coley W 12 Romallis Ellis
Daniel Santos KO 7 Miguel Gonzalez
Edgar Ruiz W 10 Ricky Hesia
Raul Frank W 12 Purcell Miller
Carlos Malaga W 12 Jorge Alvez
Willy Wise KO 5 Mike Rios
Dingaan Thobela KO 4 Gary Murray
Walter Saporiti W 10 Adrian Daneff
Lorenzo Smith W 10 Lester Yarborough
Fitz Vanderpool W 12 Ron Pasek
Larry Dixon KO 8 Leonardo Mas
Giorbis Barthelemy W 10 Carlos Baldomir

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Hector Lopez KO 2 Angel Beltre
Giovanni Parisi KO 7 Nigel Wenton
John-John Molina KO 6 Joey Negron
Diobelys Hurtado W 10 Emanuel Burton
Mark Winters W 12 Carl Wright

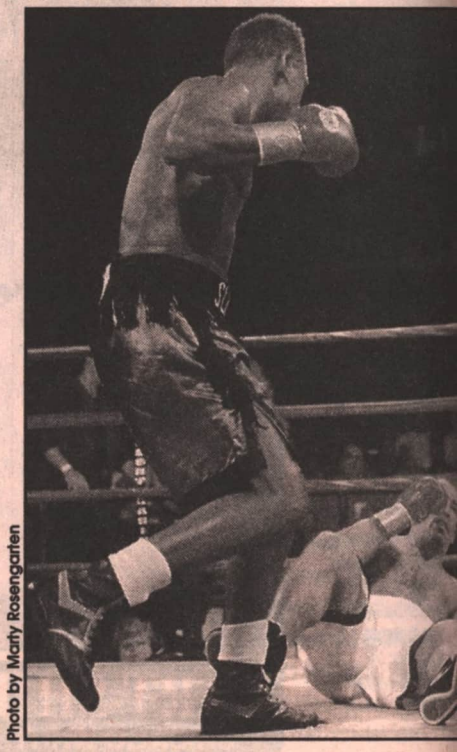


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Willy Wise dropped Mike Rios in the fifth

Georgie Smith KO 6 Anthony Campbell
Edwin Rosario KO 2 Harold Bennett
Ismael Chaves KO 2 Rafael Ortiz
Mike Griffith KO 6 Jermal Corbin
Hiroyuki Maeda W 10 Teofilo Tunacao
Zab Judah W 6 Rick Edson

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Artur Grigorijan W 12 David Armstrong
Diego Corrales KO 6 Juan Angel Macias
Colin Dunne KO 8 Alan Bosworth

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Yong Soo Choi D 12 Takanori Hatakeyama
(Retains WBA Title)
Julien Lorcy D 12 Arnulfo Castillo
Justin Juuko W 12 Vladimir Matkivski
Charles Shepherd KO 10 Davey McHale
Floyd Mayweather KO 6 Felipe Garcia
Dean Pithie KO 11 Stefy Bull

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Naseem Hamed KO 7 Jose Badillo
Manuel Medina KO 6 Jose Ayala
Radford Beasley W 12 Benito Rodriguez
Augie Sanchez KO 2 Osvaldo Valenzuela
Manuel Chavez KO 6 Juan Luis Torres
Paul Ingle KO 8 Jon Jo Irwin
Atsushi Hagiwara KO 4 Andy Alagenio
Sergio Liendo KO 6 Freddy Chumpitaz

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Spencer Oliver W 12 Vincenzo Belcastro
Kennedy McKinney KO 5 Luigi Camputaro
Hippolito Saucedo KO 2 Marco Flores

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Adan Vargas W 10 Alfred Kotey
Johnny Bredahl KO 5 Javier Campanario
Masahiko Nakamura W 12 Inshik Koh

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Miguel Rojo Martinez W 10 Ruben Contreras
Takato Toguchi KO 5 Jaime Aliguin

FLYWEIGHTS

Carlos Salazar W 12 Everaldo Morales
Jose Lagos KO 7 Mozart Santos

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Rocky Lin KO 7 Rudy Gilios
Oscar Andrade KO 7 Cruz Zamora
Shiro Yahiro KO 6 Sangchul Lee
Hidenobu Honda KO 8 Toru Shimabukuro

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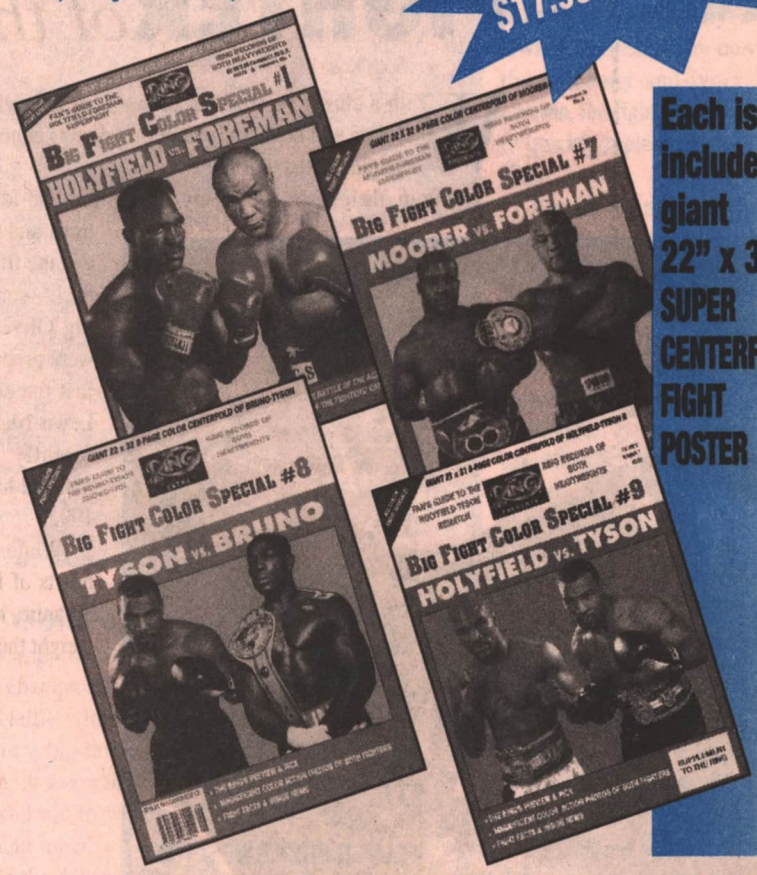

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

With a cluster of crushing blows from his right hand, Lewis destroyed the myth of Andrew Golota and erased any lingering doubts concerning his status as one of the very best heavyweights in the world.

Going in, there were still plenty of skeptics who felt that the Englishman was living on borrowed time, and that his second reign as WBC champion would end the first time he faced a challenger who would punch back—something neither of his last two opponents, crying Oliver McCall and clutching Henry Akinwande, were prepared to do. Golota, the naysayers reasoned, was just the sort of take-no-prisoners thug needed to send Lewis back to Britain, minus the belt. Now we know differently. Just 95 seconds into the bout, Lewis had notched his best win since he stopped Razor Ruddock in 1992.

While Lewis may never replace Frank Bruno in the hearts of British boxing fans, on the western side of the Atlantic, he is now widely regarded as the finest heavyweight the UK has ever produced.

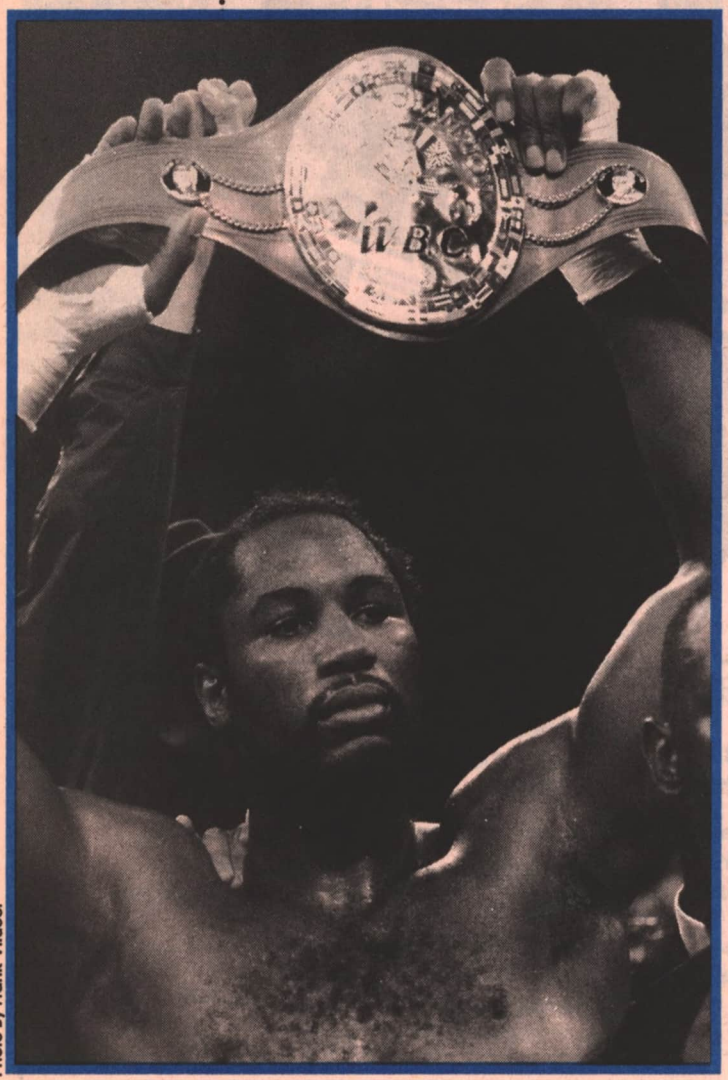
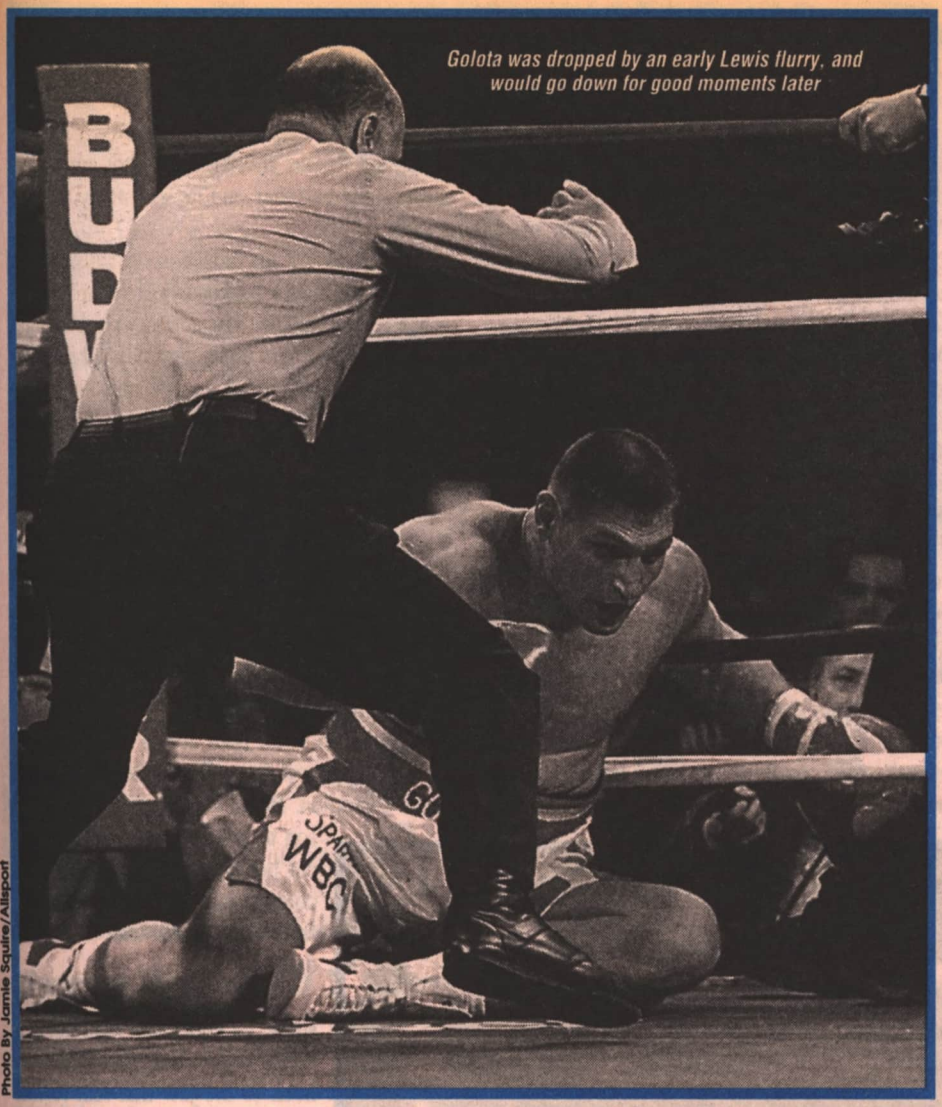


Photo By Frank Vitucci

• • • •

Lennox Lewis



Golota was dropped by an early Lewis flurry, and would go down for good moments later

Photo By Jamie Squire/Allsport

Lennox Lewis KO 1 Andrew Golota

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Golota, the scowling, robotic Foul Pole who retired two-time former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe, was exposed by Lewis as a nervous Nellie without the emotional wherewithal to handle the pressure of a big-time fight or the mandible to absorb a major-league punch. A series of howitzer-like rights ended Golota's much anticipated bid to win the WBC heavyweight title just 1:35 into the opening round, sending thousands of his raucous supporters sulking into the Atlantic City night, their tails between their legs, their red-and-white Polish flags drooping at half-mast.

Despite the fact he was without a victory over a legitimate contender (Remember, despite beating the bejabbers out of Bowe, *technically*, he lost both fights via DQ), Golota was only a wafer-thin 6-5 underdog by the time he entered the ring at the A.C. Convention Center. Although Lewis' trainer, Emanuel Stewart, had unerringly zeroed in on Golota's fatal flaws prior to the fight ("Golota doesn't have the talent and I don't think he has the heart, either."), many, including a sizable portion of the media, had been taken in by Golota's memorable muggings of Bowe. But the 6'4", 244-pound ogre from Warsaw (now domiciled in Chicago) turned out to be a sacrificial lamb in wolf's clothing, so petrified of the impending fisticuffs that just hours before fight-time, Lou Duva, his long-suffering trainer, was forced to dispatch security guards to search for his tardy charge.

There was no doubt as to whom was the favorite among the clamorous crowd of 13,889. Golota, 28-3 (24), was given a hero's welcome worthy of Lech Walesa, while Lewis, escorted by flamboyant manager Frank Maloney (dressed in a garish suit fashioned out of the Union Jack), was hardly greeted in a manner befitting British royalty. But following an intense stare-down worthy of ebony-and-ivory Sonny Listons, the fight started and reality quickly replaced jingoist delusion.

For all intents and purposes, the first serious punch Lewis landed ended the fight. Less than a minute into the round, the defending champion found Golota's prominent jaw with a flush right, causing the suddenly unhinged challenger to stumble backward into a corner. Lewis, who later said, "I wanted to knock him out before he had a chance to commit any fouls," immediately unleashed a tempest of follow-up punches (mostly rights) that soon had Golota, 29, crumpled on the canvas.

Golota slowly groped his way to his feet, his body lurching in one direction and his legs staggering in another. Referee Joe Cortez (USA) would have been well within his rights to stop what had instantly turned into a mismatch then and there, but he charitably permitted the stricken fighter to continue.

Lewis, 32, pounded his prey across the ring and into another corner, where a series of numbing shots sank Golota again. This time Cortez didn't even bother to pick up the timekeeper's count, waving the fight over a mere 95 seconds after it began.

"Evander Holyfield would be my first choice because he beat Mike Tyson," said Lewis, 32-1 (26), when asked who he wants to fight next. "If he's sincere about unifying the title, he's almost forced to fight me."

Meanwhile, back in Golota's dressing room, the vanquished challenger suffered what was described as an anxiety attack. He was rushed to Atlantic City Medical Center, kept overnight for observation, and released the following morning.

Television: TVKO
Promoter: Main Events
(10-4-97)
Nigel Collins

Arturo Gatti KO 5 Gabriel Ruelas

Atlantic City: IBF junior lightweight champion Gatti, 25, reinforced his reputation as one of the fight game's most consistently exciting competitors with his rousing back-from-the-brink knockout of former WBC champ Ruelas, 27, on the Lewis-Golota card at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Seemingly out on his feet late in the fourth round, Gatti came back to unleash a colossal left hook in the fifth that floored the valiant challenger, prompting referee Benji Esteves (USA) to stop the fight at 2:22 of the round.

Both competitors put on a great deal of weight after weighing in at the class limit of 130 pounds the previous day. Ruelas came to the ring at 145½ and Gatti entered at 146 for his fourth defense and what most suggest will be his last fight as a junior lightweight.

The first round saw Gatti, Jersey City, New Jersey, use his powerful jab to force back Ruelas, Sylmar, California, and set up strong right-left combinations. By the end of the initial round, though, Gatti began to show signs that he would abandon his boxing tactics in exchange for wild slugging, and Ruelas complied, trading undefensed rights to the face in the final seconds.

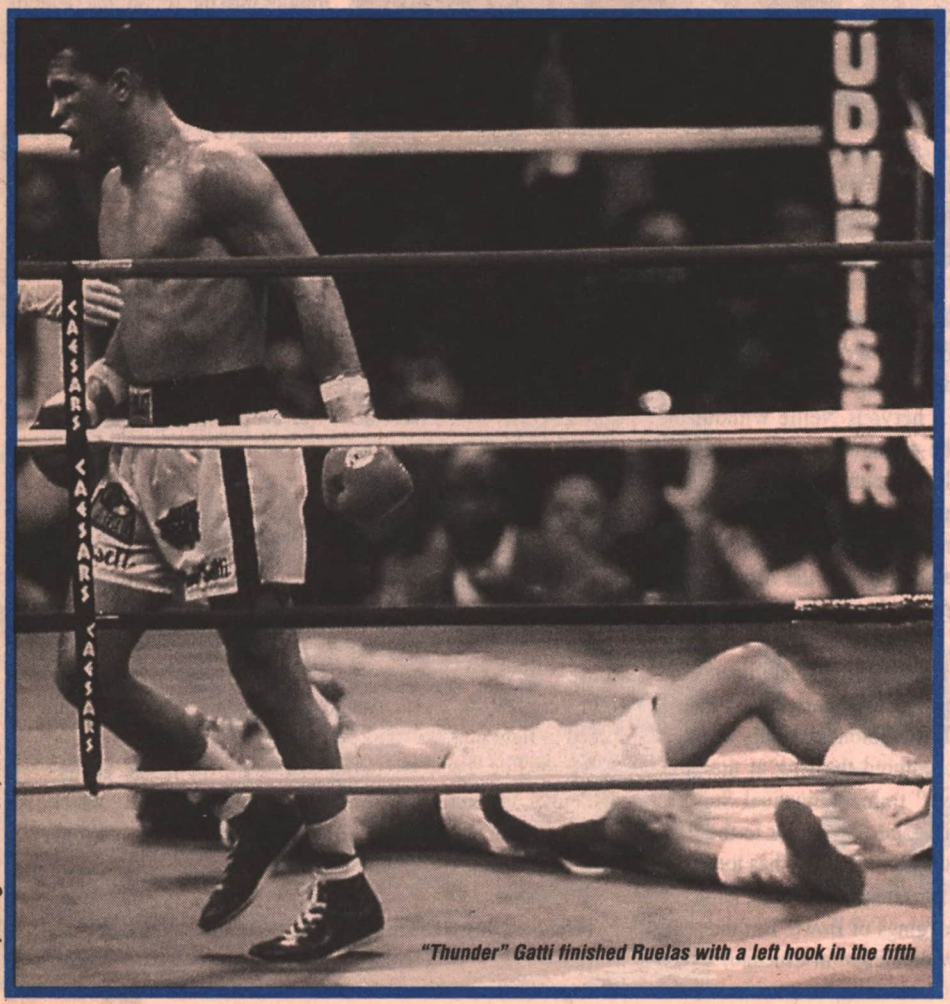
Gatti controlled the second round as well, going back to his left jab and scoring with a series of rights that staggered the challenger. Ruelas, though dominated for most of the round, landed an excellent right uppercut square on Gatti's chin, establishing the punch he would rely on as the fight wore on.

The champion continued to control the pace of the fight with his jab in the third, but Ruelas fought back with a powerful right-left combination and a momentum-stopping accidental low blow that earned him a warning from Esteves. Gatti landed a good left at the end of the round, and Ruelas answered the shot not with a punch, but with a smile at the bell that said he was ready to let it all hang out in the fourth.

After winning the third on two of the judges' scorecards, Ruelas pursued Gatti in the fourth, stinging the backpedaling champion with six unanswered punches up the middle. The action went back and forth until Ruelas landed four short right uppercuts and then a devastating left uppercut with 30 seconds left that made Gatti's knees sag. Ruelas attacked the wobbly Gatti, who avoided falling to the canvas by leaning limply on his opponent and absorbing everything Ruelas could dish out. Miraculously, Gatti fought back with a wild but effective combination as the bell sounded, but his swollen eyes indicated that he was going to have to go for the finish soon.

Ruelas, struggling to reestablish himself since a 1995 title defense that saw his opponent, Jimmy Garcia, die after the fight, hadn't scored a knockout since the Garcia fight. But he continued to attack Gatti at the start of the fifth, intent on not letting the opportunity for a kayo pass him by.

The challenger, beginning to swell both above and below his left eye, absorbed a right uppercut from Gatti, pounded on his chest, and smiled at the champion. But it was Gatti who had reason to smile as, in spite of a bad cut beneath his left eye, he took control, initiating the thunderous flurry that would lead to Ruelas' demise.



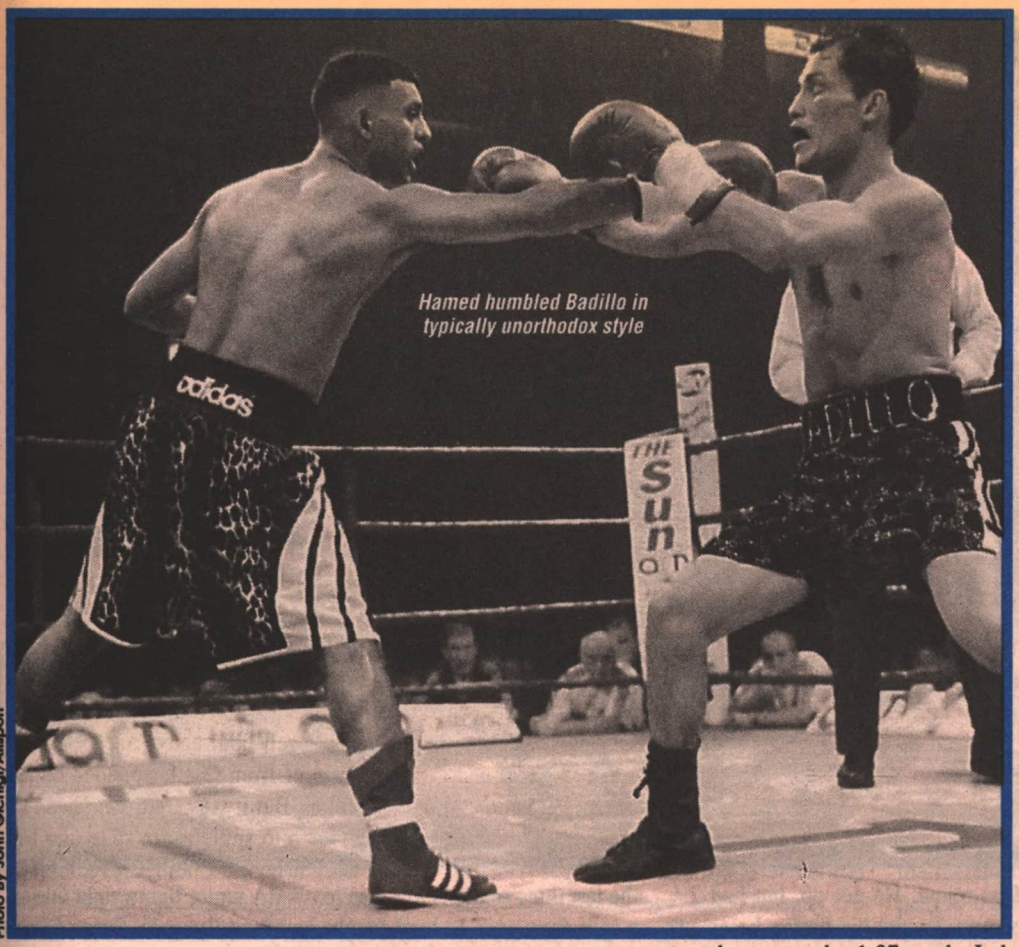
"Thunder" Gatti finished Ruelas with a left hook in the fifth

Photo By Craig Blankenhorn/HBO

Gatti landed a pair of body shots, an enormous right hook, a weak right, and the final left hook to the jaw that sent Ruelas to the floor approximately two minutes into the round. Ruelas stood up at the count of seven, but Esteves stopped the fight as the challenger stumbled around the ring like a newborn deer. Gatti, 29-1 (24), dropped triumphantly to his knees and raised his arms in the air, knowing he had escaped a tremendous onslaught from Ruelas, 44-4 (23), who showed he was a legitimate contender once again.

Entering the final round, judges Robert Gonzales (USA) and John Stewart (USA) both had the fight even at 38-38, while William James (USA) had Gatti ahead 39-37.

Television: TVKO
Promoter: Main Events
(10-4-97)
Eric Raskin



Hamed humbled Badillo in typically unorthodox style

Photo By John Gichigi/Allsport

Naseem Hamed KO 7 Jose Badillo

Sheffield, England: With a commanding display that seemed effortless, Hamed, 126, Sheffield, tore apart world class and mandatory challenger Badillo, 125, Los Angeles, like he was a club fighter. It was the main event of a bill at the Sheffield Arena dubbed "The Full Monty."

From the first bell until Badillo's manager, Ricardo Maldonado, mercifully decided to intervene, Hamed, 23, was superb, ruthlessly debilitating with his own powerful punches and nowhere to be found when Badillo, 27, mustered retaliation. He hardly got hit by one serious blow against a man who bludgeoned then-IBF champion Tom Johnson to the canvas three times in a title challenge two years ago. This was Badillo's sole loss in 21 previous fights, but nothing could prepare him for the featherweight phenomenon whose mission is to become a legend. On the basis of the evidence presented against Badillo, they can begin filling out the ballot papers for Canastota.

Hamed, 28-0 (26), began in almost circumspect fashion, raking out several southpaw jabs, one of which seemed to hurt the Puerto Rican. But the self-styled "Prince" did not follow up and almost got clipped by a Badillo left. Ominously, the challenger sported a swelling underneath his left eye as he walked back to his corner. The chess match continued in the second before Hamed followed up a solid right uppercut in the third with a few verbals.

In the fourth, Hamed reinforced his superiority with a left hand just before the bell that staggered Badillo, 20-2 (15), and sent him back to his corner on wobbly legs.

Hamed sensed that his opponent was hurt and landed a good right-left combination in the fifth that Badillo did well to hold. Then Hamed missed terribly with a telegraphed right hand and fell unceremoniously into the ropes before erupting into a showboating frenzy that saw his feet and hands move at about 100 kilometers per hour, but cause little concern to Badillo. Indeed, he came back in the sixth with a solid left and a right, but ended the round in trouble from a Hamed right hand.

Badillo was succumbing to Hamed's power blows and staggered out of a seventh round exchange towards his own corner. A piercing right and left by Hamed prompted Maldonado to gatecrash the ring, with referee Mike Ortega (USA) waving the match over at the 1:37 mark. Judges Victor Salomon (Mexico) and Stuart Winston (USA) had Hamed ahead 60-54, while Larry Hazzard Jr. (USA) had it even wider at 60-53.

"There isn't a featherweight in the world who can take the pain," said Hamed afterwards. He was then joined at ringside by Kevin Kelley and added, "He's right beside me, and I am honestly telling him that I am going to knock him out."

Kelley retorted, "I'm going to smoke your boots. I'm a party crasher and I'm going to crash Hamed's party."

Promoter: Frank Warren

(10-11-97)

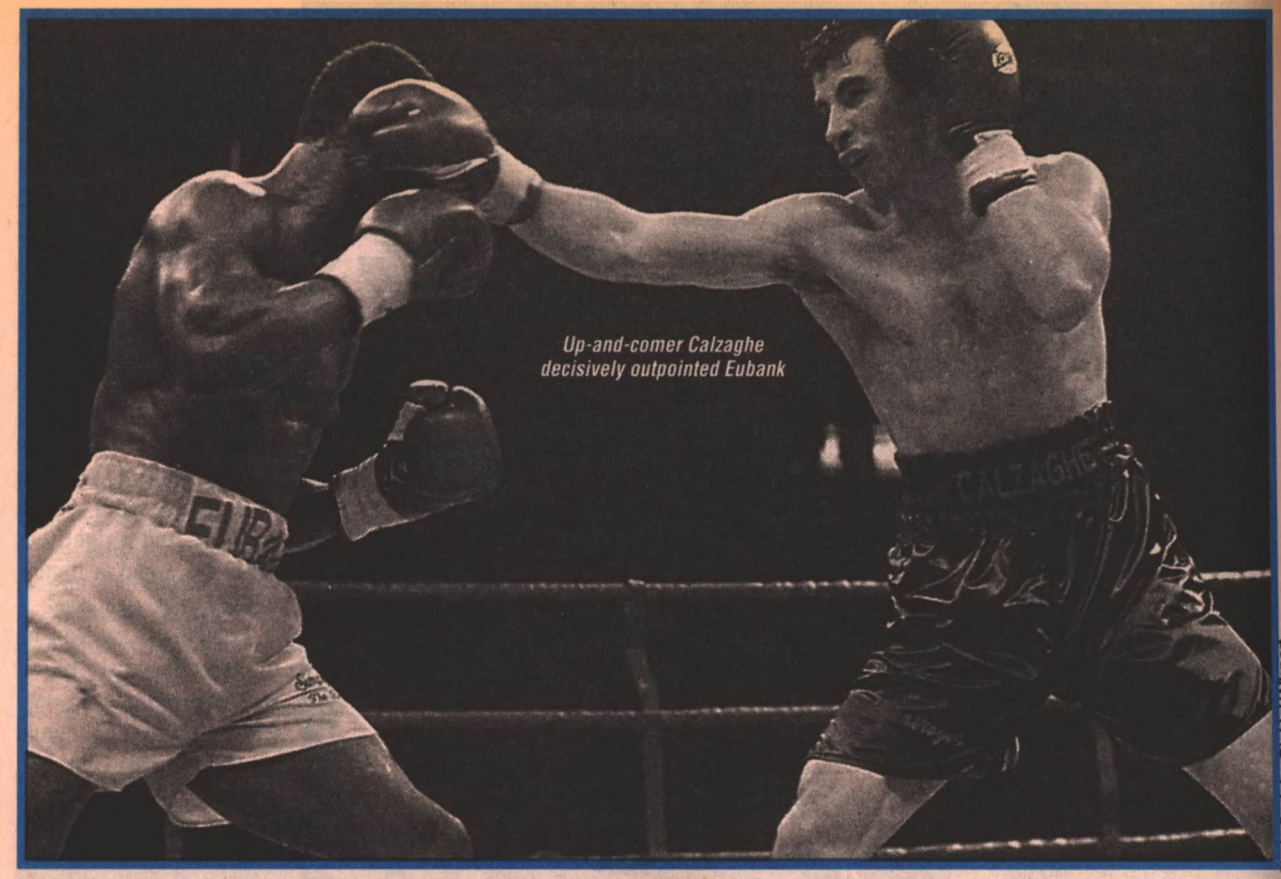
Brian Doogan

Joe Calzaghe W 12 Chris Eubank

Sheffield: In a watershed fight, Calzaghe, 167¼, Newbridge, Wales, dug deep to comprehensively outpoint Eubank, 167¾, Brighton, England, who dug even deeper to make a contest of it at the Sheffield Arena.

Steve Collins' recent retirement cleared the way for a new star to shine in British boxing, and Calzaghe grasped his chance. But it was Eubank's monumental effort that made the Welshman look so good. Decked emphatically in the opening minute by a swift, powerful left hook, Eubank gutted it out, fought back tenaciously, and remained dangerous until the final bell. In fact, seconds from the end, he caught Calzaghe with a staggering shot, but the Welshman stayed upright.

It seemed Eubank, 45-3-2 (23), on the other hand, was destined not to remain upright for very long after being sent sprawling by



Up-and-comer Calzaghe decisively outpointed Eubank

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Calzaghe's left hook in the first round. He got up, but had 2½ minutes remaining to survive. And despite his timing being off and his defense proving porous, he did survive. A hard right hurt him again and a left caused damage in the second, a round in which Calzaghe considered himself to be so much in control that he started to showboat—a bit prematurely.

Eubank, 31, caught Calzaghe, 25, with a left in the fourth, but was forced backwards by a sustained assault which Calzaghe, 23-0 (21), repeated in the fifth. Another left staggered Eubank in round six, but he won his first round of the fight in the seventh and fought grimly in the eighth. Calzaghe's youth and determination, however, helped him find a second wind. Eubank's gloves touched the canvas in the 10th after he walked into a left hand, and with the second knockdown, Calzaghe was well in front when the final bell rescued him from a Eubank onslaught.

The three British judges voted unanimously in favor of Calzaghe, with Dave Parris scoring it 118-109, Roy Francis seeing the fight 118-111, and Paul Thomas rendering a 116-111 vote. THE RING saw it 118-110, also for Calzaghe, who is tentatively scheduled to box in America on the Naseem Hamed-Kevin Kelley undercard.

Promoter: Frank Warren
(10-11-97)
Brian Doogan

Yong Soo Choi D 12 Takanori Hatakeyama

Tokyo, Japan: Rugged Korean infighter Choi, 129½, withstood the opening attacks of unbeaten Japanese contender Hatakeyama, 130, gradually regained the pace, and scored significant points in the last three sessions to retain his WBA junior lightweight title on a split draw over 12 hard-fought rounds at Ryogoku Sumo Arena. Some 10,000 spectators were in attendance to see Japan's brightest prospect's coronation, but it was not to be.

Hatakeyama, 22, outdueled the nervous champ with faster punches to take the first three rounds. The 25-year-old champ concentrated on hitting the breadbasket of his aggressive opponent, a strategy which would pay off as the fight went on. Beginning in the fourth round, the contest became a see-saw war. Hatakeyama sustained a cut under the left eyebrow in the fourth that made it difficult for him to see his opponent well the rest of the way, while Choi, making his sixth defense, dominated the round with persistent uppercuts to the face and belly.

The challenger won the fifth by virtue of his sheer aggressiveness, but Choi regained control in the sixth. The two competitors split the next two rounds as well, and Hatakeyama, in winning the ninth, began to show signs of fatigue. The game and more experienced champ went all out to show his domination in the last three rounds.

When the final bell rang, the only thing that was certain was that the scores would be close. Indeed, the official tallies were for a split draw, as Derek Milham (Australia) scored the bout 116-114 for Choi, Marcos Torres (Panama) had it 116-114 for Hatakeyama, and Art Lurie (USA) saw it 114-114. Choi, whose durability and determination allowed him to keep his crown, is now 23-2-1 (13), while Hatakeyama's record reads 20-0-1 (16). The referee was Venezuela's Julio Castillo.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions
(10-5-97)
Joe Koizumi ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

York Golden Glove title three times and winning the nationals in 1995. An advanced use of angles gave Judah a polish beyond his years. It was a style that Judah felt was not suited for the amateur ranks.

"It seemed like I was always being penalized for hitting low or not mixing it up," complained Judah.

While his hit-and-don't-get-hit philosophy did not sit well with the amateur judges, it did get him noticed at Main Events.

"We started hearing a lot of good things about Zab," recalled Finkel, "and we wanted to get him in camp. But his father thought that he wasn't ready yet and wanted him to grow up a little first."

Instead, Judah opted for the '96 Olympic Trials, where a controversial loss to the slightly more experienced David Diaz would help him mature in a hurry. It was a back-and-forth fight that could have gone either way. Goaded by Diaz' roughhouse tactics, Judah was lured out of his fight and outpointed by Diaz. While his camp acknowledges that it was a close fight, Judah felt he did enough to win, and the loss left him second-guessing the boxing business.

"Everything in my life up to that point was geared toward that fight, and they took it away from me," the fighter said. "I really thought about quitting after that fight."

Ultimately, Olympic coach Al Mitchell convinced Judah to remain in camp—a decision that helped him physically, but did nothing to heal his battered ego.

"Camp kept me in great fighting shape, but I was an alternate," said Judah. "Being out of the spotlight was really tough. I'll never put myself in that position again."

Avoiding precarious positions is what Judah is all about. His ability to score combinations while slipping punches has drawn persistent comparisons to Main Events stablemate Pernell Whitaker. Even before Judah turned pro in September '96, Finkel noted their similar styles.

"Zab and Pernell have identical styles, the only difference is Zab hits harder," said the man who guides both boxers' careers.

While Judah acknowledges that his technique owes much to Whitaker's, he is careful not to let such flattery go to his head—though he admits being awestruck when first approached by Duva.

"When Lou called and asked if I wanted to spar with Pernell, I couldn't believe it," admitted Judah. "It's one thing to be around those guys in the gym, it's another to be in the ring with them."

Whatever starry-eyed reverence Judah held for Whitaker was immediately punched out of him. "Pernell was banging me hard, like we'd been sparring together for years. I knew right away I had to hold my own."

Judah did more than hold his own. After their first session, an impressed Whitaker likened sparring with Judah to "fighting his own shadow."

Even though Judah believes training with Whitaker gives him a distinct advantage over his opponents, Duva knows that it will take more than compliments from "Sweet Pea" to make a champion out of Judah. One area of Judah's game where Duva would like to see improvement is his punching power. Despite having eight inside-the-distance wins in his first 11 bouts (five coming in the first round), Duva thinks Judah can utilize his powerful legs more efficiently.

"He has such strong legs that we'd like to cut his movement down a little and see him bang a little bit," said Duva.

The young prospect will have ample opportunity, according to Duva, who intends to have Judah fighting meaningful 10-rounders that will have him in serious contention for a title immediately after the new year. It is a timetable guaranteed to keep Judah immersed full-time in his training. But that's the way it's always been.

Not everyone, however, is as high on Judah as his management team.

"I haven't seen him enough to call him a slapper, but that's the impression I got from the fights I've seen," said promoter J Russell Peltz. "And I'm not sure the guys he's knocked out have been the toughest competition. Can he take a punch? I don't think he's been in the ring with anybody who actually was in the position to win the fight. He really hasn't been tested yet. But at 19, how much do you want to test him? I think the only thing to be cautious with is his cockiness. I know Pernell Whitaker is his hero or something. I might be concerned with him trying to pull off those cute little Whitaker moves that only Pernell can do, and getting himself in trouble. It's obvious that the kid knows how to box and has a lot of talent, but he might have to be corralled."

From its beginning, Judah's life has been centered around boxing. His father, Yoel Judah, a six-time kickboxing champion, first exposed his third-oldest son to the boxing environment at age six. While Yoel sparred with close friend and former Olympian Mark Breland, young Zab soaked up the atmosphere and mingled with the stars he saw on TV. Not only was the gym a natural incubator for Zab's inherent interest in boxing, it was a suitable alternative to the Flatbush streets that Yoel was determined to keep his sons off of.

"I didn't want my kids on the streets after school getting into trouble," remembered Yoel. "Zab took to boxing like a fish takes to water. Of all of his brothers, we knew Zab was going to turn pro first."

Of seven fighting Judahs, only Zab has turned pro. Ariel, 25, Danielle, 20, Josih, 18, and Mikey, 12, are all fighting at various stages of their amateur careers.

Judah's relationship with his brothers has been an invaluable support system—just as important as good training and good management. Whenever their schedules permit, the Judahs perform road work and weight training en masse. When it is time to train, one or more brothers will invariably turn up at the gym to give encouragement to whichever Judah is fighting at the time.

"Their relationship has always been supportive. There has never even been friendly competition among them," said Yoel.

Judah's membership in a fighting family also fuels another quirky career goal: to one day headline a card made up entirely of fighting Judah brothers. Although he is entirely aware of boxing's entertainment value, Zab's relationship with his father has kept him well-grounded. Yoel has managed to avoid the cardinal sin of fathers who try to handle their sons—attempting to fulfill their dreams through their child's career.

"A lot of fathers try to accomplish the things they couldn't through their kids," said Yoel. "Sometimes they don't make the best decisions. We're like brothers. I look just as young and handsome as him."

"He's my inspiration," said Judah, who claimed he owes all his successes to his father. "Everybody says I try to be like Pernell, but I really want to be like my father. He's my idol." ■

Frank J. Krewda is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia.

ANSWERS TO THE BOXING IQ QUIZ

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b
5. c
6. b
7. b
8. d
9. b
10. True
11. a
12. e
13. c
14. d
15. e
16. e
17. False
18. a
19. c
20. True

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Art Shires

(Continued from page 45)

With time on his hands, Shires decided to put his fighting talents to use in the ring. No less than Teddy Haynes, who'd trained former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey, announced that he would handle the ballplayer-turned-boxer.

"Shires weighs 193 in perfect condition and has the build of a fighter," said Hayes. "He has great courage and the utmost confidence in himself and his ability to make good in the ring."

That was probably the understatement of Hayes' life, as Shires proved later when recalling their first training session.

"Why, when I showed up for my first workout in the gym, the instructor said it would take six months to show me how to hold my hands up. I told him this wasn't any tin-eared, thick-skulled bum he was talking to. I told him to explain what was to be done, and if he could explain it intelligently, I'd pick up what it was all about fast enough."

Shires made his pro debut on December 9, 1929. His opponent, announced as "Dangerous" Dan Daly of Cleveland, went down and out in 21 seconds before a full house at the White Center Arena in Chicago. The Associated Press account said the bout "was fought with the savageness of a couple of longshoremen. They stood in mid-ring hammering each other about the head, until Shires cut loose with a short right cross to the chin that knocked Daly silly."

Typically, nobody was more in awe of his accomplishments than Whataman himself. "If that is how I sack 'em when I'm in a good humor," he said. "I hate to think what'll happen if I get mad."

Nonetheless, some veteran boxing writers were appalled. "Arthur Shires is a foul ball as a ring warrior, but so long as they groove 'em for him, he'll be able to hit like Bambino Ruth," wrote *The Milwaukee Journal's* Sam Levy.

Boxing's newest sensation immediately announced he wanted to fight Tunney. But if the retired champion had any notion of accommodating Shires, he would have to get in a long line. Within days of the Daly bout, Chicago promoter Jim Mullens was besieged by calls and telegrams from all manner of prospective Shires opponents.

"Never in the history of the ring has a newcomer been in such demand," it was reported. "Challenges have come from baseball players, house detectives, and even from the penitentiary, where a convict became so incensed at Shires' boasting that he announced himself willing to go straight to get a crack at Shires' chin—if he could keep it shut long enough."

But Mullens wasn't interested in any fungo contest. He envisioned a financial Gram Slam pitting Shires not against a top contender or even a tomato can like Daly, but against another ballplayer, one said to be second in popularity to Ruth—Hack Wilson, outfielder for the Chicago Cubs.

Like Shires, the 5'6", 215-pound Wilson had no previous ring experience, but enjoyed a good scrap. During the 1929 season, Wilson had been suspended, too, after wading into the Wrigley Field stands to take a punch at a heckler, and once mixed it up with two different Cincinnati pitchers on the same day.

Everything else happening in the real world of boxing was instantly ignored or lost in a roar of media hype for the proposed pugilistic World Series. Wilson was all for it. Said to be a pal of light heavyweight champion Tommy Loughran, the Cubs outfielder told reporters he intended to get "some of the best fighters in the East" to help put him in shape for the proposed January 1930 contest at Chicago Stadium, for which Mullens guaranteed him a $10,000 purse. That was almost as much as the future Hall of Famer got for an entire baseball season.

As for Shires, he was affronted by the idea that such a rank novice as Wilson would accept such a hopeless challenge. "He better come in that ring with a bat," he said. "I don't know why he has to horn in on my game, anyhow. What does he know about fighting?"

As negotiations dragged on, Mullens found an interim opponent for Shires in George Trafton, yet another Windy City sports idol who played lineman for the Chicago Bears football team.

"I think I'll put a stop to all this noise about a Shires-Wilson fight by knocking the guy out myself," declared Trafton, who was so unconcerned about Shires that the day before their December 15, 1929, bout,

he played in the Bears' final game of the season against the New York Giants.

Having vowed to stop Trafton even quicker than he did Daly, Shires rushed out at him, winging punches. Shorter but 40 pounds heavier, Trafton weathered the onslaught and then floored Whataman with three ponderous left hooks. Shires got up and lasted the whole six rounds, clearly losing the decision. Afterward, he was undaunted.

"I didn't want to meet that big bruiser, and I've got a mind to sock my manager on the jaw," he said. "But I fought the best I could and had my own laugh at the suckers—those silly fans who paid $5 a seat. Let 'em laugh at me all they want to. Let 'em think I'm dumb. I got three grand for the fight, and I'll get $10,000 for swapping sock with Hack Wilson."

But the Cubs demanded that its star centerfielder stick to baseball, and the Grand Slam never happened. The ring career of The Great went merrily on anyway, thanks to the availability of other challengers and the public fascination with the spectacle.

One day after Christmas, Shires knocked out one "Bad Billy" Bailey in 1:29 of the first round. His confidence restored, Whataman announced himself ready for "any man in the world"—as long as he didn't have too much ring experience. Nobody knew how much experience "Bad Billy" had before impaling himself on Shires' fists, but a few days after the match a rumor hit the papers that Bailey was in fact "Dangerous" Dan Daly, Shires' inaugural victim.

Meanwhile, St. Paul, Minnesota promoter George Dorna booked Shires for a bout there on January 7, 1930, announcing that he "would consider challenges from football players, hockey players, or other baseball players." Eventually chosen from a list of 50 prospective suitors was Tony Faeth, a former minor-league pitcher. That suited Shires fine. "I never did like pitchers," he said, "and I know enough about this one to know I can hit him in the box or in the ring."

But before it reached St. Paul, the Shires bandwagon bumped into two whopping obstacles. Five days before the Faeth bout, Shires was booked to fight Battling Criss in Detroit. On the day of the fight, however, Criss came down with a cold and it was canceled. The following day, Criss' manager informed the State Athletic Commission that his tiger had been approached to lay down to Shires. And while Whataman was busy denying that charge, "Dangerous" Dan Daly surfaced again in Columbus, Ohio, under his real name of Jim Gerry, and told the newspaper that he had been ordered to "take a dive—or else" against Shires in their Chicago fight. It was front-page news across the country, and The Great was suspended by the National Boxing Association, pending an investigation. Suddenly, his old career looked pretty good to Shires.

"My interest is in baseball," he told the Michigan commissioners. "I came into this boxing racket to make some money. I have seven brothers and three sisters back home, and my ambition is to go back home sometime with a quarter of a million dollars. After I straighten everything out, I'll go through with the bouts scheduled, and that will be all of boxing for me. I don't want to quit now because all the fans will think I'm guilty."

Within days, the Michigan and Illinois boxing commissions cleared Shires of all charges and his suspension was lifted. But the cheesy aroma followed him to St. Paul, and after Shires stopped Faeth in two minutes, he plaintively asked the audience, "Does anybody here recognize this guy as 'Dangerous Dan'?"

Nobody did, so it was on to Boston for a bout against Al "Baldy" Spoher, who was a catcher for the Boston Braves. Shires stopped him in the fourth round, and was jeered by the 18,000 spectators at the Boston Garden.

A week later, Whataman was in action again, but this time on the basketball court. Although convinced he could excel at any sport, Shires' basketball tryout was a bust because none of the other members of the South Philadelphia Spas would pass him the ball. He was yanked off the court after just 11 minutes.

By then however, Shires faced an even bigger problem in the form of a summons from Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the stern baseball commissioner, who had followed the riot of publicity attending the errant first baseman, and finally decided it was time to step up to the plate. They met in Chicago on January 19, and after just three minutes, an uncharacteristically silent Shires walked out of Landis' office—and out of boxing. Landis issued a two-sentence statement that explained everything:

"Hereafter, any person connected with any club in this organization who engages in professional boxing will be regarded by this office as having permanently retired from baseball. The two activities do not mix."

Shires went home to Italy, Texas, where 300 people greeted his train. He was back in a White Sox uniform that spring, but his batting average dipped, and he was traded to the Washington Senators after 37 games. While he hit .369 in 38 games there, Shires was let go at the end of the season. But by winning the batting title in the minor-league American Association as a member of the Milwaukee Brewers the next year, he earned a contract offer from the Boston Braves, which Shires accepted by telegram signed, "Your latest sensation." But he batted just .238 for the Braves in 82 games, and was released again. By 1932, the man called by baseball historian Eugene Murdock "baseball's most colorful figure during his time in the game" was out of the big leagues.

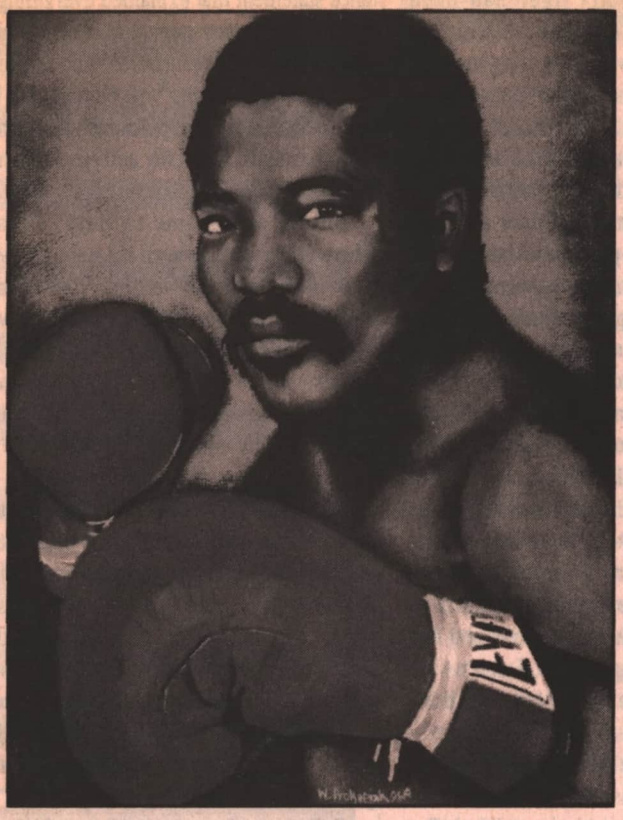
Still, Shires' career as a fighter had one more inning to go. In 1948, when he operated a restaurant in Dallas, he got into a brawl with his favorite type of opponent, another baseball player. Unfortunately, W.H. "Hi" Erwin died later, and Whataman was charged with murder. It was ruled, however, that Erwin died of a combination of pneumonia and cirrhosis of the liver, and Whataman was freed after paying a fine for battery. He died of lung cancer, at the age of 60, in 1967.

It would be nice to say that when Judge Landis thumbed The Great Shires out of the ring, he saved both his sport and boxing from monumental embarrassment. But just two days after he ended Shires' boxing career, a gigantic former circus strongman from Italy named Primo Carnera stopped Big Boy Peterson in the first minute of his American debut, and the suckers were hooked all over again.

Not only has bunkum never had a problem getting to first base in the ring, there's always somebody new waiting on deck. Right, Butterbean? ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Legends of Boxing



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Olympic Update

(Continued from page 29)

eventually catch up with him and derail a potentially fine career. According to Dan Goossen, that's nonsense.

"David is a very formidable professional, even at this early stage of his career," Goossen said. "The best is yet to come. He will prove to the world that the Olympic victory was not a fluke."

Because Reid appears immune to being intimidated by the spotlight and seems to genuinely revel in accepting significant challenges, he seems destined to become a world champion, maybe in several different weight classes. At press time, he was slated to take on veteran Nick Rupa, who lasted until the 10th round against Terry Norris in an early-'97 title challenge. **Grade: A**

Fernando Vargas: Welterweight Vargas of Oxnard, California, did not win a medal at the Games, but is another fledgling star nonetheless. Promoted by Main Events, he is now 7-0 (7) and has been featured on several major pay-per-view shows. Vargas, Reid, and Floyd Mayweather share the distinction of being the only '96 Olympians to appear on HBO. According to Main Events matchmaker Carl Moretti, HBO is eager to use Vargas in the future.

"So far he has done everything asked of him and more," said Moretti. "I haven't been able to put him in with good enough opponents to really test his mettle because I underestimated just how good he was. He is eager to fight a guy like [former IBF junior welterweight champion] Charles Murray, but it was I who was hesitant. At this point we are looking for fights with lower-echelon 10-round fighters, guys like Willy Wise, Jose Rivera, Tony Martin, and Ken Sigurani. We are ready to make the jump, even though Fernando's been ready for a while."

Moretti admits that Vargas is "a bit cocky," but says, "that is good in his case, even though he would be willing to fight De La Hoya tomorrow." That would be an early career mistake. **Grade: B+**

David Diaz: Campaigning at 139 pounds in the Olympics, Diaz lost a lopsided decision to German Oktay Urkal and came home to Chicago without a medal. Now fighting as a lightweight, he is promoted by Top Rank and has a record of 5-0 (0). The left-handed three-time National Golden Gloves champion got off to a slow start as a pro due to a hand injury incurred shortly after his debut in November '96. He has been on an ambitious schedule, however, and has already fought in four states. While he has a pleasing, brawling style, his lack of genuine firepower might hinder his progress. Under Top Rank's tutelage though, he should be able to generate enough interest to get some big fights. **Grade C+**

Terrance Cauthen: The slick, stick-and-move Philadelphian competed in the 132-pound class in the Olympics and was outpointed by Bulgarian Tontcho Tontchev, having to settle for a bronze medal. Now 21, he is 8-0 (3), trained by Marvis Frazier and King Solomon, and promoted by Banner Promotions. Frazier says Cauthen is "blessed by the best," because he has been handled by him and his father, former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, since he was nine years old. Cauthen has not progressed past six-rounders yet, but Frazier said he is much too good of a talent to rush.

"He's two years away from a title shot," Marvis said. "We're climbing the ladder, but not rushing anywhere. We don't want to spill the wine before its time. Terrance still must learn to go to the body more effectively, and to step around his man, instead of stepping straight back. But he's a good listener and a real warrior. He'll be just fine."

Grade: B

Floyd Mayweather: Although he only won a bronze medal in Atlanta, few people can argue that the 20-year-old Mayweather, a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, has emerged as the superstar of the Games. The 10-9 decision he lost to Bulgarian Serafim Todorov was vehemently booed by all in attendance, and most feel he would have easily won a gold medal if not for the much-maligned com-

(Continued on page 58)

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Olympic Update

(Continued from page 57)

puterized scoring system.

Currently 11-0 (9) as a pro, the Las Vegas-based Mayweather is steamrolling toward a title shot. According to Top Rank publicist Lee Samuels, "he is eager to fight [WBC super featherweight champion] Genaro Hernandez right now."

Mayweather is brash and conceited, but, so far, has been able to back up his bombast with his fists. He comes from a luminous boxing family. His father, Floyd Sr., fought Sugar Ray Leonard, and his uncle Roger, who currently trains him, is a two-time former world champion.

Promoter Bob Arum considers "Pretty Boy" a "cross between Sugar Ray Leonard and Oscar De La Hoya," an assessment shared by many in the boxing fraternity.

On HBO in September, Mayweather destroyed fringe contender Louie Leija in two rounds and solidified his status as perhaps the most closely watched prospect in the world. While he seems to be destined to win a world title, it will be interesting to see how he handles adversity—assuming he faces some. **Grade: A**

Zahir Raheem: Twenty-year-old featherweight Raheem, a Philadelphia native, is 7-0 (3) as a pro and passed a stern test in his seventh fight. "The Z-Man" had to climb off the deck twice in the second round to rally and eventually stop Lionel Odom in the fifth round. Odom was not brought in as just another mark on Raheem's resume. He was a five-time New York City Golden Gloves champion who was considered a prospect in his own right. His promoter, Bob Arum, was impressed by the heart Raheem displayed.

The Z-Man has a good left hook, is difficult to hit, and has a tricky style better suited for the pros than the amateurs. While his goal is to fight Naseem Hamed sooner rather than later, it is apparent that he first needs to gather more experience. **Grade: B**

Eric Morel: The 20-year-old flyweight from Madison, Wisconsin, via Puerto Rico, did not win a medal because he had the misfortune of meeting eventual gold medalist Maikro Romero of Cuba in his very first fight. Nicknamed "Little Hands Of Steel," Morel, 10-0 (7), has an incredible work ethic. Trainer Bob Lynch claimed he never met such a dedicated athlete.

Morel is close to taking his career to the next level, but insists that regardless of his success, he will retain his job cleaning carpets at a local Holiday Inn. Over the years, he says, the owners have been so good to him that he would hate to walk away from them. That type of loyalty, which he also applies to his far-reaching athletic goals, sets him apart from many other professional athletes. Coupled with his busy itinerary, it is easy to imagine very good things happening to him during his ring career. **Grade: B+**

Alberto Guardado Jr.: The 24-year-old flyweight from Topeka, Kansas, did not win a medal, but seems to have a style well-suited for the pros. Unfortunately, he has not fought as often as he would like, even after signing a promotional agreement with America Presents. In addition to boxing, Guardado attends Washburn University in Topeka, where he is a senior majoring in public relations with a minor in business. Now 4-0 (2) as a pro, he is disappointed that he has not seen more action in recent months.

"If we were fighting regularly, people would see how well he has adapted to the pro ranks," said his father, Alberto Sr., who has been involved with his son's career since he was 10 years old. "We still got a few things to work on such as closing out a fight quickly, but he picks things up so fast. His patience may be wearing thin by not getting fights, but he is smart enough to keep a positive attitude and to always keep in shape."

It is a shame that Guardado's talents are not showcased more often, because he is a pleasing, busy workman in the ring. Being a 112-pounder will only add to the difficulties of establishing an identity in this country, unless, of course, he can develop the type of following Virgil Hill was able to in North Dakota. **Grade: B** ■

Robert Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City and a regular contributor to this magazine.

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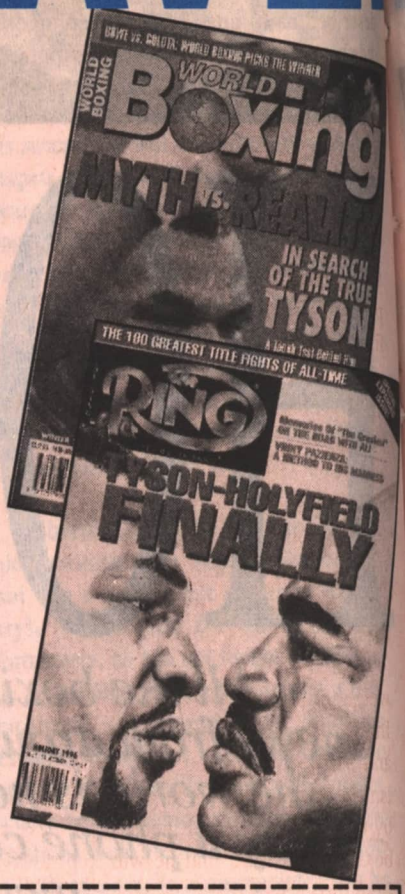

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Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 37)

whom Lewis' manager, Frank Maloney, described as a lunatic before adding, "I didn't want Lennox to take this fight," Ruddock was perceived as the most dangerous heavyweight in the world or, as one writer put it, the "meanest cat in the jungle." That was until Lewis caught him toward the end of the opening round with a thunderous straight right, the same punch that initiated Golota's demise. The same punch, same effect, but five years apart, five years in which Lewis' career stagnated, five years that now seem such a waste.

"By now Lewis should have fought your Tysons, your Holyfields, your Bowes, and your Moorers—and beaten them," insisted Naseem Hamed's trainer, Brendan Ingle, a tough, frank Irishman who says boxing is "a horrible, despicable, backstabbing, prostituting business—but it's the most exciting sport in the world."

"He should be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world," continued Ingle. "But partly through his own fault, and partly through the fault of others, he isn't. He shouldn't have got knocked out by Oliver McCall, and then the politics of boxing made sure that he was kept away from the various titles.

"But you look at him now and you think, *What a waste those five years have been.* At 27, he had the potential to be the main man in heavyweight boxing. At 32, he still has the potential to be the main man. Nothing has been achieved in between, which is a shame, a travesty."

Lou DiBella, HBO Sports vice president, accepted this by implication when he spoke personally of being vindicated by Lewis' destruction of Golota.

"I have been strongly criticized for having kept faith with Lennox," he admitted. "At last he has justified that faith."

Apart from the knockout by McCall—the full trauma of which Lewis escaped by concluding in his mind that Mexican referee Lupe Garcia intervened prematurely—and a bruising battle with Ray Mercer, Lewis has not accumulated the amount of damage, physical or emotional, that eventually took such a toll on Bowe. For this reason, coupled with the fact that there seems to have been marked improvement in his boxing under the tutelage of Steward after dispensing with the voluble but ineffective Pepe Correa, both DiBella and Ingle feel strongly that Lewis' five-year slumber will not be terminal.

"I think Lennox is easily the best heavyweight in the world, and if he continues to fight like he did against Golota, no one could live with him—not even a warrior like Evander Holyfield," said DiBella.

"Lennox Lewis will knock out Evander Holyfield sparko," reiterated Ingle. "And he will knock out Mike Tyson, too. You have to give him credit for the Golota fight. Even the one time he got himself into anything approaching trouble, when he got backed into a corner, he feinted and slipped out smoothly—no panic.

"There is a fluidity about his work that wasn't there when he fought, for example, Frank Bruno. So although his years in the doldrums were a waste in terms of achievement, I don't think they have diminished him as a fighter. He has the best jab among those in the upper echelons of the division, has good movement for a big man, and has the power to take any opponent out of there.

"His problem was that he surrounded himself with people who dragged him down to their level. In that kind of environment, you are going to lose something, be it skills, ambition, or motivation. Emanuel Steward is now getting the best out of him. He's a floating trainer now who only takes on developed talent, but he has done it all in the past in the Kronk Gym in Detroit. Steward is a big factor in Lewis re-emerging onto the center stage."

In an effort to reinforce the imperatives of big fight violence, Steward suggested that Lewis should spend less time trying to reach the point of "check mate" on chess boards and more time bellowing, "You're decked, mate," to prostrate fighters. Lewis will always be a more cerebral creature in the boxing world. But Steward believes the

(Continued on page 62)

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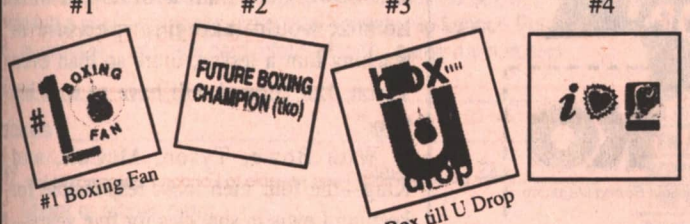

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Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 61)

aggression that has frequently been hidden is increasingly becoming apparent.

"Chess is an interesting game, and Oscar De La Hoya likes to play it, too, but I don't think it is healthy for a fighter to play too much of it," suggested Steward. "There are thousands upon thousands of options you can consider for each particular move, and you take your time thinking them over. Fighting is instinctive. And you have to be assertive. I think Lennox is proving now that he has regained the aggression to complement the phenomenal accuracy of his hitting. I have no doubt that he will go on now to defeat all the heavyweights out there and fulfill his potential."

Ironically, it is a fighter who is not currently out there with whom Lewis is most obsessed. Second to the pursuit of universal recognition as heavyweight champion, his most persistent ambition is still to teach a lesson to the now-retired Bowe.

"I hear the only person he can beat up now is his wife," said Lewis coldly, a reference to the alleged wife-beating that prompted Bowe's wife, Judy, to file charges against him.

Eliades cast some light on Lewis' obsession. "Bowe is still the one whom Lennox would like most to fight—he still wants to knock his block off," he said. "Just after the Lewis-Golota match, I received a call from Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, who wanted to discuss a Lewis-Bowe matchup. For the things Bowe said, for all the stupid comments and Bowe's constant avoiding of him, Lennox would take great pleasure in teaching him a lesson, more so than even Tyson. But [Bowe] will have to wait his turn."

With Bowe, Tyson, McCall, and King—the four men most responsible for keeping Lewis in shackles for five years—now occupying bystanders' positions on the sidelines, Lewis might get used to calling the shots as well as swinging the most effective ones in heavyweight boxing today. ■

Brian Doogan is The Ring's European correspondent and a regular contributor to this magazine.

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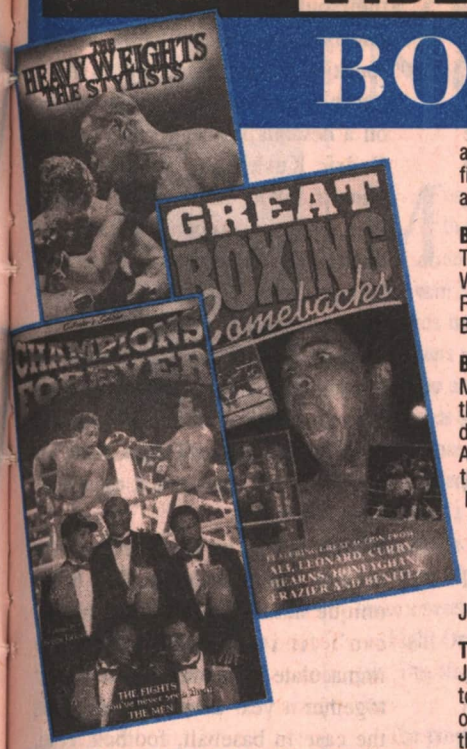

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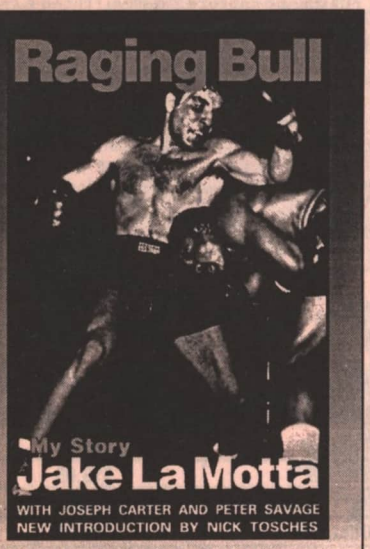

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Mad as Hell

(Continued from page 30)

ers. We just hate it. How could anybody lose touch so badly that he begins to talk about himself in the third person? As in Roy Jones telling us, "Roy Jones is the best ..." Blah blah blah.

- Which brings us to the inherent madness of boxing economics. Over and over, we see two kids fight their hearts out in a prelim for a few hundred bucks and then we must endure Henry Akinwande earning a seven-figure purse for playing octopus again.
- Bad losers—as in Pernell Whitaker.
- Bad winners—as in Pernell Whitaker.
- Trash talk. Just fight.
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- Entourages the size of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.
- Racist crap of any kind. Ethnic rivalries? Sure, that's part of the sport. But no matter what else, the fight game is a brotherhood. Period.
- The alphabet boys' rating systems. Even when the numbers look right, they still smell like the sewer from which they emerged.
- Trunks cut in strips, decorated with spangles, or put together in any way that detracts from the intensity of the business at hand. Boxing isn't supposed to be cute. You want cute? Go into figure skating.
- The executive dolts in the Hilton Corporation. Remember? Fearing a riot, they canceled their contract to put on Johnny Tapia vs. Danny Romero just a few days before the fight—after all the seats had been sold.
- TV announcers who tiptoe around the reality that their financial ties to the promoter often dictate the tone of their purportedly neutral spiel. No one is more guilty of this double-speak than the Showtime team that is attached to Don King like barnacles on a devious whale. Rival promoter Cedric Kushner may be no angel himself, but he can be awfully articulate, particularly the time he described the Showtime team as "pimps" for King. There are, however, exceptions. Bobby Czyz, for example. An accomplished analyst, his white-hot outrage was right on the money when King's *numero uno* meal ticket, Mike Tyson, took his infamous ear-time snack on worldwide television.
- Which brings us to the rest of the politics and dealmaking. Due to the unique nature of the sport, boxing can't fit its matches into some immaculate tournament timetable put together a year ahead of time, as is the case in baseball, football, et al. So before every fight must come the deal. When these never-ending negotiations overshadow the sport itself—which is so often the case—it's outrageous. The identity of a fighter's promoter should be the least—not the most—important criterion for deciding who fights whom.
- Incapable referees, blind or tainted judges, snoozing timekeepers, mismatches, worthless commissions, and typical house-fighter-vs.-opponent charades. None of these things are even worthy of separate categories for our anger. All of it stinks. Because no other sport demands such a formidable and fantastic blend of ability, speed, grace, endurance, and courage, we always want boxing to be purer than the world around us. But deep down we know that it is only a reflection of what is surely an imperfect universe. After all, if life were perfect, Bambi's mother would be alive today. But that doesn't stop us from getting angry at the jerk who shot her. ■

Ivan Goldman is The Ring's West Coast correspondent and a regular contributor to this magazine.

BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

Most readers of this column know I am a big program collector. I also have written that I love collecting the programs from some of boxing's great rivalries. Putting the programs together makes a set of sorts, and collectors like sets. With this in mind, let's look at the Sandy Saddler-Willie Pep series and the programs their historic series of fights generated.

If you hang around the International Boxing Hall of Fame on induction weekend, you will hear many of the old fighters say that Pep was the greatest fighter who ever lived. And invariably, they will dig up the old chestnut about Pep actually winning a round without throwing a punch. Well, far be it for a non-participant to argue with the legends of the sport, but where does that put Saddler?

It is true that Pep had to recover from an airplane crash and had slowed half a step since his peak, but he was just 26 when he fought Saddler the first time, and Saddler would go on to beat Pep three out of the four times they met. So let's leave it at this: Pep-Saddler was one of the greatest four-fight series in history and featured two of the finest boxers of all-time.

Three of the four programs from the Saddler-Pep series are so difficult to find, just searching for them can make a baseball card collector out of you.

Fight One (October 29, 1948): The rumor was that the fight was fixed. In round four, Pep was flattened by a jab! This strange turn of events was preceded by a flow of cash being wagered on Saddler, who was a 5-2 underdog.

The program is from Madison Square Garden. You can generally find plenty of MSG programs, but seldom the one you're looking for, and this is no exception. In those days, there was a fight at the Garden almost every week. MSG programs pretty much look alike, differing only in the four-page insert pertaining to that week's show. The insert for the first Saddler-Pep fight notes that Saddler had been chasing the champion for two years. Maybe Willie should have read the insert.

Fight Two (February 11, 1949): This would be Pep's finest hour, a performance that many consider one of the preeminent boxing exhibitions in the history of the ring. Pep regained the featherweight title via 15-round decision, but Saddler's mauling tactics left the winner with a battered face. The questions that arose from the first fight appeared to be answered, as Saddler was every bit the measure of Pep.

Once again, the MSG program is very formidable to find.

Fight Three (September 8, 1950): Although he was down in the fourth, Pep was ahead on points when he retired in round eight with a dislocated shoulder, putting Saddler back on the 126-pound throne.

This program is the easy one of the set to find. The bout was fought at Yankee Stadium, and there have been several "finds" of the program, which, oddly enough, features illustrations of two guys who are definitely not Saddler and Pep. It is also a smaller program than the ones from MSG.

Fight Four (September 26, 1951): Like many such rivalries, the final fight was far from the best. This one was a foul-infested brawl won by Saddler via ninth-round TKO. Afterward, both fighters were temporarily banned from boxing in New York because of the dirty tactics they used.

As it has the fighters' names on both the cover and inside, the Polo Grounds program from the fourth fight should be easier to find than it is. Nonetheless, it's just as difficult to unearth as those from the two MSG fights.

What to pay? Programs from fights one, two, and four will run anywhere from $150 to $250, with the Yankee Stadium program in the $50 to $75 range. It took me 13 years to put together my Saddler-Pep set, so don't get discouraged if you can't find them right away.

Incidentally, if you collect tickets, those from the last two fights are relatively easy to get. These are full tickets from a printer's overrun and cost $75-$125 each. ■

*Don Scott is editor and publisher of **Boxing Collector's News**, and can be reached at 3316 Luallen Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75007.*

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of September 1997, the IBF ratings as of September 1997, and the WBC ratings as of September 1997.

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Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	1	2	6
Andrew Golota (POL)	2	4	10
Orlin Norris (USA)	3	5	9
David Tua (NZ)	4	12	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	6	–
Ray Mercer (USA)	6	–	5
Francois Botha (SA)	7	1	2
George Foreman (USA)	8	–	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (NIG)	9	–	–
John Ruiz (USA)	10	8	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	11	3	3
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	7	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (USA)	–	9	12
Jerry Ballard (USA)	–	10	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	1
Obed Sullivan (USA)	20	–	4
Hasim Rahman (USA)	–	–	7
Chris Byrd (USA)	19	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	C
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	1	2	–
Torsten May (GER)	2	5	7
Johnny Nelson (GB)	3	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	4	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	5	3	11
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	6	–	3
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	7	–	–
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	8	9	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	9	10	9
Don Diego Poeder (HOLL)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Adopho Washington (USA)	–	4	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	6	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	7	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	8	5
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	20	11	4
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	6
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	8
Tiwon Taylor (USA)	29	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	C	3
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	5	–
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	2	–	6
Montell Griffin (USA)	3	–	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	4	6	5
Merqui Sosa (DR)	5	7	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	6	3	12
Richard Frazier (USA)	7	4	11
Chris Eubank (GB)	8	9	–
Mark Prince (GB)	9	–	–
Don Lalonde (CAN)	10	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	1	4
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	15	2	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	–	8	8
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	7
Richard Hall (USA)	–	11	9
Will Taylor (USA)	26	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	2	–	9
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	3	1	5
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	4	8	4
Henry Wharton (GB)	5	–	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	6	–	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	7	3	1
Herol Graham (GB)	8	5	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	9	12	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	14	2	3
Leif Keiski (SWE)	27	4	–
Francis Dean (GB)	–	6	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	25	7	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	13	9	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	10	6
Vacant	–	–	2
Willie Monroe (USA)	–	–	7
Tony Byrd (USA)	–	–	8
Robert Coehlo (BRA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	–	5
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	4
Paul Vaden (USA)	4	2	3
Julian Jackson (USA)	5	7	–
Brian Barbosa (USA)	6	4	7
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	7	–	–
Richie Woodhall (GB)	8	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	9	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	10	3	10
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	5	–
Robert Allen (USA)	12	6	8
Quincy Taylor (USA)	–	8	–
Glen Johnson (USA)	–	9	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	14	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Antoine Echols (USA)	–	–	6
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	C
Felix Trinidad (PR)	1	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	2	2	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	3	12	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	4	–	–
Steve Martinez (USA)	5	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	6	8	3
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	7	–	–
Robert West (USA)	8	–	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	9	–	–
Kookyui Song (KOR)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	2
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	3	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	20	4	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	–	5	–
Jason Papillion (USA)	19	6	4
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	7	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	9	10
David Noel (TRI)	–	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	1
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	5
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	–	6
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Adrian Dodson (GB)	16	–	8
Ryan Rhodes (GB)	17	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	3	1
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	2	2	3
Derrell Coley (USA)	3	4	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	11	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	5	–	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	6	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	7	–	–
Edwin Rosario (PR)	8	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	9	7	–
Vernon Forrest (USA)	10	–	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	–	1	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	6	–
Juan Negron (PR)	28	8	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	24	9	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	16	10	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	4
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	5
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	6
Purcell Miller (USA)	–	–	7
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	9
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	C	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	5	4	5
Reggie Green (USA)	6	7	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	7	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	8	3	2
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	9	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	10	5	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	6	3
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	8	6
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	9	–
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	4
Jemal Corbin (USA)	–	–	7
Jan Bergman (SA)	11	–	8
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	9
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	2	3	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	4	1	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	5	–	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	6	–	–
Jimmy Rangel (COL)	7	–	–
Marco Rudolph (GER)	8	–	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	9	5	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	10	–	4
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	14	2	2
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	12	4	11
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	6	7
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	7	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	–	8	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	9	9
Israel Cardona (USA)	–	10	5
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	28	–	1
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Luis Flores (COL)	–	–	6
Acelino Freitas (BRA)	15	–	8
Wilson Palacio (COL)	24	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Robert Garcia (USA)	1	5	1
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	6	–
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	3	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	4	3	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	5	–	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	6	10	–
Jesus Chavez (USA)	7	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	8	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	9	–	–
Saul Duran (MEX)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	24	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	4	4
Miguel Casillas (MEX)	–	7	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	8	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	9	–
Harold Warren (USA)	15	–	2
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	5
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	6
Barry Jones (GB)	–	–	7
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	14	–	8
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	–	9
Tautoma Yasuda (JAP)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	2	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	3	11	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	4	–	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	5	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	6	–	–
Floyd Havard (GB)	7	–	–
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	8	–	–
Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)	9	–	–
Dramane Nabaloun (BKF)	10	10	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	3	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	4
Victor Polo (COL)	–	5	3
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	6	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	25	7	5
Genaro Rios (NIC)	–	8	–
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	–	9	8
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	6
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	7
Hector Valaquez (MEX)	12	–	9
Edward Barrios (COL)	20	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	2	2	8
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	3	–	6
Spencer Oliver (GB)	4	6	5
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	5	8	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	6	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	7	–	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	8	–	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	9	4	2
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	10	–	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	15	1	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	13	3	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	5	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	7	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	16	9	–
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	22	10	12
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	12	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Sean Fletcher (USA)	–	–	7
Valdir Matias (BRA)	–	–	9
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Siromongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	C	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Paul Ayala (USA)	1	3	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	–	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	3	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	4	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	5	–	8
In Jin Chi (KOR)	6	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	7	10	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	8	–	6
John Michael Johnson (USA)	9	–	5
In Sik Koh (KOR)	10	–	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	4	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	5	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	6	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	7	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	16	8	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	13	9	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	18	–	3
Juan Sanchez (COL)	–	–	4
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	–	–	7
Fernando Montilla (PHIL)	–	–	9
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	10

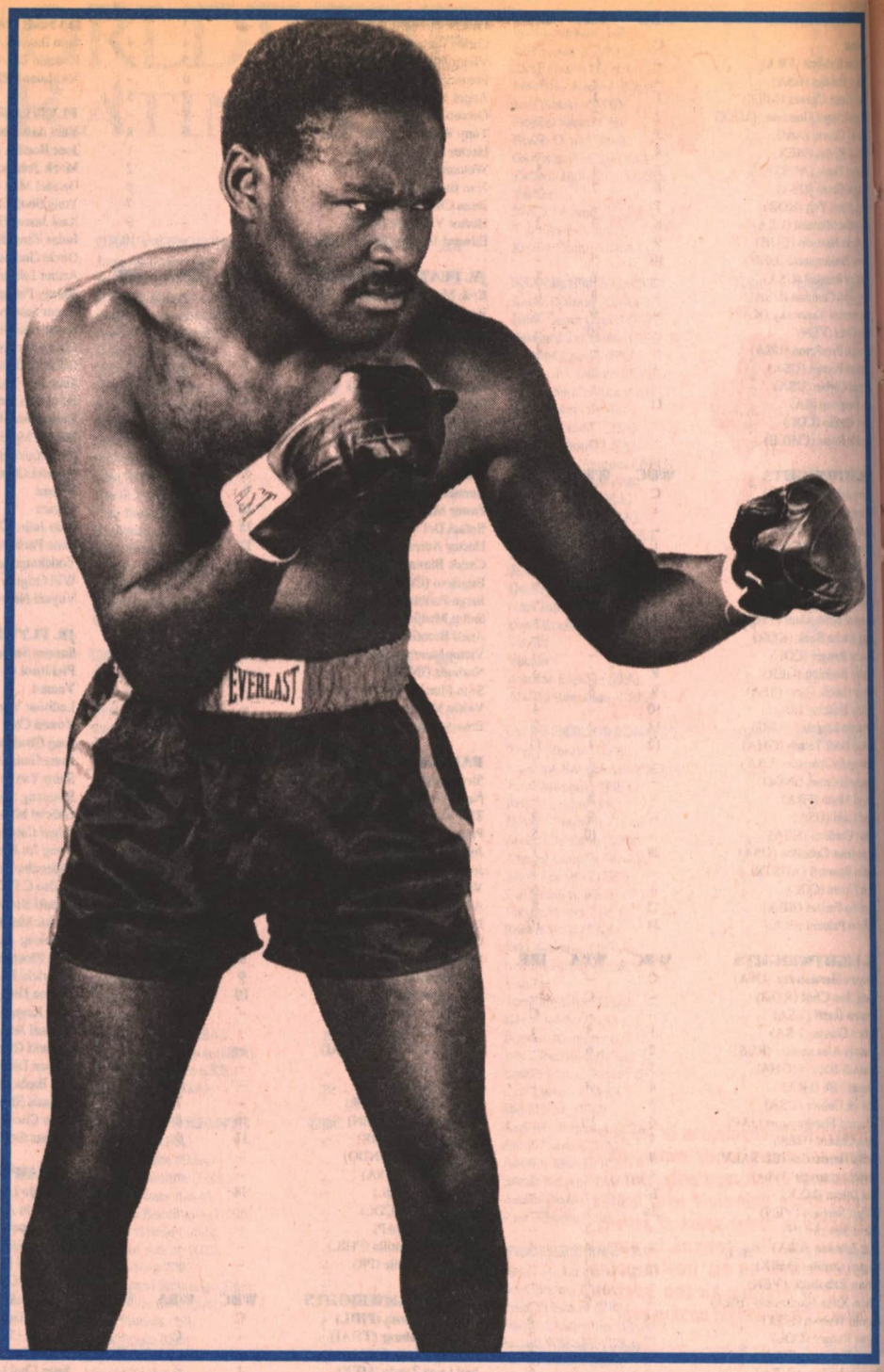
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	–	C
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	6	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	3	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	4	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	5	–	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	4	–
Danny Romero (USA)	7	–	1
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	8	–	–
Young Joo Cho (KOR)	9	–	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	10	–	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	2	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	3	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	5	–
Andy Agosto (PR)	17	7	4
Edicson Torres (VEN)	–	8	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	11	9	–
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	15	10	3
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	7
Solo Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	12	9
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	2	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	3	10	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	5	–	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	6	3	9
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	7	9	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	8	–	8
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	9	–	–
Chang Jae Kwon (KOR)	10	–	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	4	3
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	–	6	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (MEX)	–	7	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	27	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ilido Julio (COL)	21	–	4
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	29	11	7
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	12
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	11	–
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	3	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	4	2	10
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	7	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	6	–	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	7	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	8	–	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	9	4	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	10	12	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	3	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	5	3
Phanieng Akradet Gym (THA)	–	6	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	8	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	9	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	–	10	–
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	2
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	5
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	6
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	7
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	–	8
Hernan Berrio (COL)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	3	–	9
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	4	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	5	8	–
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	6	–	12
Lindi Memani (SA)	7	11	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	8	–	–
Domingo Guillen (DR)	9	–	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	10	–	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	2	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	22	3	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	5	–
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	6	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	27	7	–
Luis Blanco (COL)	–	9	–
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	12	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	–	–	2
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	5
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	6
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	7
Boy Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Carlos Eluaiza (ARG)	–	–	10

CLASSIC



FIGHTING CHAMPIONS

From THE RING, April 1951

Heavyweight champions of the past were not known for defending their titles with much regularity, but Joe Louis broke that mold with his 25 defenses in seven years of activity. Ezzard Charles (opposite page) appears well on his way to going down in history as the second busiest heavyweight champ ever.

Charles carrying on where Louis left off as busy heavyweight champion—except for the big fellows, old-timers were real fighting kings

By Jersey Jones

(Editor's note: This is a condensed version.)

Time was when the heavyweight championship of the world was considered so priceless that years often elapsed between title bouts. Champions of the other weight classes weren't considered so important, so they had to keep fighting to cash in on their titles. The big fellows, however, traded in their reputations through other outlets. Sometimes they opened saloons where their names held sufficient lure to draw the curious trade. Generally, they turned to the stage by "starring" in dramas or touring the provinces as vaudeville headliners. (The fact that most of them had little, if any, stage talent was irrelevant and immaterial. Being world heavyweight champion was sufficient to attract the customers.)

Then along came Joe Louis and he completely changed the old order of things. He and his handlers decided that a fighter's business is to fight, and he became the most active heavyweight champion the ring has known. In his pre-war era, Shufflin' Joe packed 21 successful defenses into five years, and there weren't many of the big 'uns he missed along the way. Returning to the ring after four years in the Army, Louis made four more title outings in two years, along with a bustling exhibition tour that carried him not only all over the United States, but to Hawaii, Mexico, San Salvador, Panama, Colombia, Chile, and Cuba.

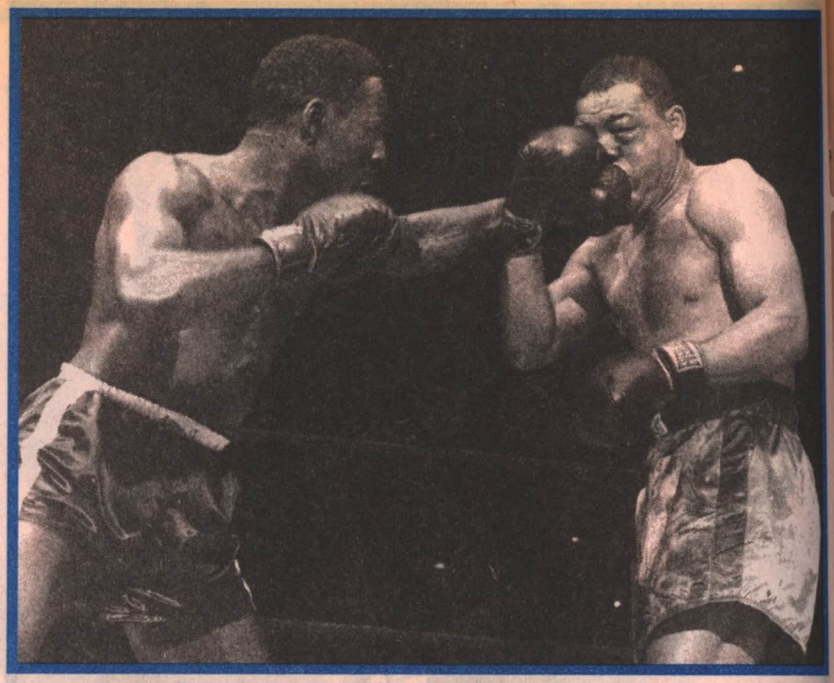
A point to remember is that any time a heavyweight champion steps into the ring in a legitimate bout, his title is at stake, since there is no weight limit in the class. Other champions can, and do, engage in overweight matches to protect their titles, or, as in the old days, no-decision bouts in which the only way champions could lose their laurels was by being knocked out.

Promising to be as industrious as Louis is Ezzard Charles, who already is off to an auspicious start. It is unfortunate, of course, that the current crop of heavyweights is probably the worst the ring has produced in a half-century. But that is no fault of Charles'. He is continuing as champion where he left off as contender. From the time he returned to the ring early in 1946, after a three-year hitch in the

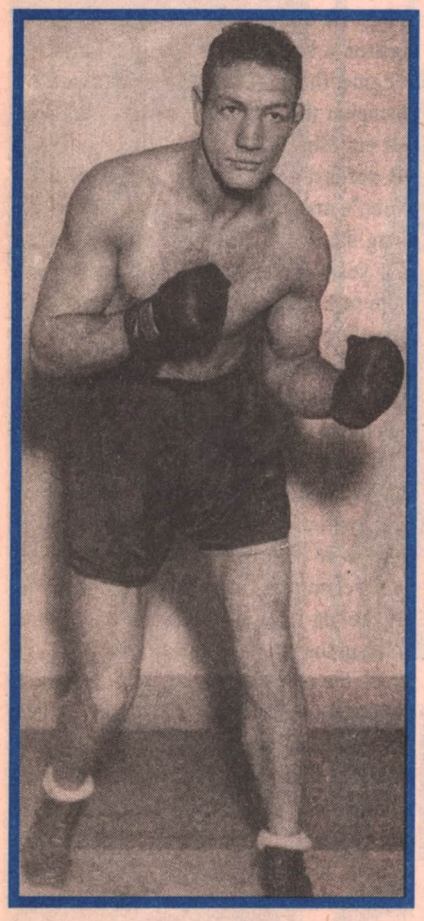
Army, until he whipped Jersey Joe Walcott in Chicago midway through 1949, Ezzard crowded 32 bouts into 41 months. He would have been even busier had it not been for several layoffs because of injuries.

Charles didn't pick his spots either. He fought 'em as they came—the clever boxers, the rugged sluggers, the dangerous punchers—and those who were not satisfied with the first result were taken on again. And if they still were not convinced, he gave 'em third chances.

As champion, Ezzard has been almost as active. It is less than two years since he whipped Walcott in Chicago, and in that time he has disposed of Gus Lesnevich, Joe Louis, and Lee Oma in New York, Pat Valentino in San Francisco, Freddie Beshore in Buffalo, and Nick Barone in Cincinnati. His record would read even more impressively had he not been sidelined for several months with that injury to his heart.



Charles beat Louis for the world title on September 27, 1950, at Yankee Stadium. "The Brown Bomber" was decisively outpointed, and the torch was thereby passed to another "fighting champion."



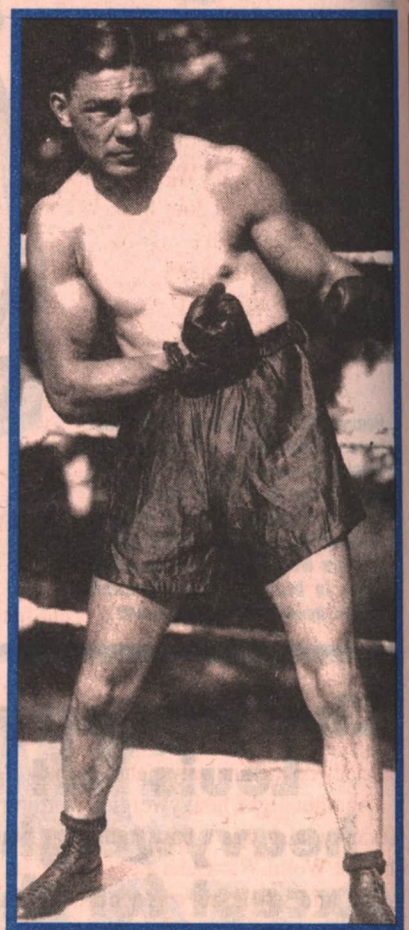
Light heavyweight Maxie Rosenbloom is considered the most active champion ever, fighting an average of once every two weeks during his reign. However, his belt was only at stake in eight of his 107 bouts during those four years.

About the only heavyweight of consequence Ezzard has not faced so far is the inactive 35-year-old Lee Savold, who has had only one bout in more than two years, and the sleek Cincinnatian promises to get around to Squire Bill Daly's entry in due course.

What chance Charles has of matching Louis' record as champion is something, of course, that remains to be seen. But if he doesn't, it will not be for lack of trying, but for lack of opponents. The guy is a real "fighting champion."

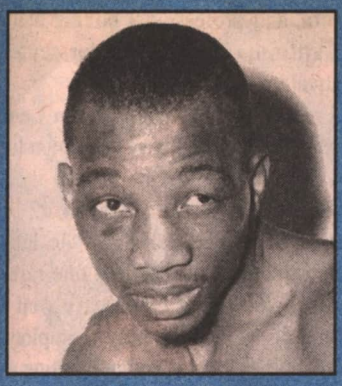
One thing Charles is practically certain of accomplishing is passing the record of the second most industrious heavyweight champion—Tommy Burns. But those who might object to calling the chunky Canadian a "fighting champion" would point to the merry chase he led Jack Johnson on to avoid meeting the powerful Galveston ex-stevedore. The pursuit spread halfway 'round the world, starting in California, moving to Europe, and finishing in Australia. During the long haul, Burns fought 10 times in two years, appearing in England, Ireland, France, and Australia, before Johnson finally caught him, but Tommy was a particular sort of gentleman about the caliber of the opposition he faced.

In all weight classes, the most active champion was Maxie Rosenbloom. In the



Harry Greb fought 56 times in the 2½ years he reigned as middleweight champion, and many of those fights were against heavyweights who had as much as 60 pounds on Greb.

THE RING RATINGS, April 1951



Sandy Saddler

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ezzard Charles
1. Joe Louis
2. Lee Savold
3. Joey Maxim
4. Clarence Henry
5. Rex Layne
6. Joe Walcott
7. Bob Baker
8. Rocky Marciano
9. Jack Gardner
10. Roland LaStarza

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joey Maxim
1. Archie Moore
2. Harry Matthews
3. Bob Satterfield
4. Bob Murphy
5. Nick Barone
6. Doc Williams
7. Jimmy Slade
8. Dan Bucceroni
9. Harold Johnson
10. Don Cockell

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Robinson
1. Jake LaMotta
2. Dave Sands
3. Laurent Dauthuille
4. Randolph Turpin
5. Gene Hairston
6. Jimmy Beau
7. Ray Barnes
8. Robert Villemain
9. Paddy Young
10. Walter Cartier

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. Kid Gavilan
2. Johnny Bratton
3. Billy Graham
4. Charley Fusari
5. Eddie Thomas
6. Johnny Saxton
7. Joe Miceli
8. Mickey Tollis
9. Maurice Harper
10. Gene Burton

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ike Williams
1. Freddie Dawson
2. John L. Davis
3. Tommy Campbell
4. Del Flanagan
5. Art Aragon
6. Calvin Smith
7. James Carter
8. Enrique Bolanos
9. Rudy Cruz
10. Mario Trigo

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandy Saddler
1. Willie Pep
2. Ray Famechon
3. Charley Riley
4. Percy Bassett
5. Luis DeSantiago
6. Ronnie Clayton
7. Al Phillips
8. Lauro Salas
9. Ciro Morasen
10. Rudy Garcia

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vic Toweel
1. Luis Romero
2. Manuel Ortiz
3. Peter Keenan
4. Luis Galvani
5. Elley Bennett
6. Emile Chemama
7. Maurice Sandeyron
8. Tommy Proffitt
9. Bobby Boland
10. Hadi Tijani

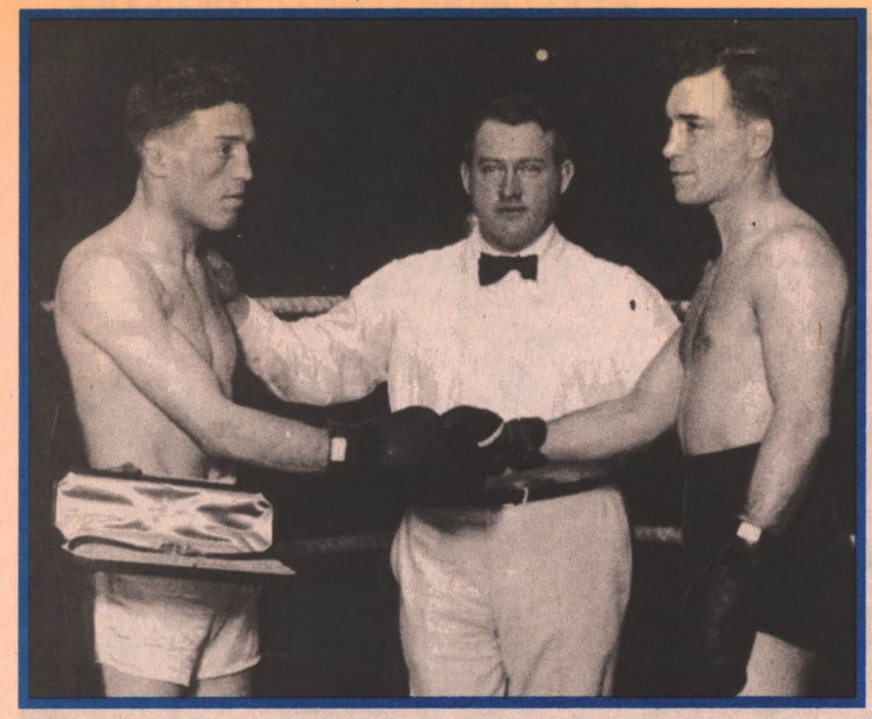
FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Dado Marino
1. Jean Sneyers
2. Terry Allen
3. Vic Herman
4. Louis Skena
5. Honore Pratesi
6. Stumpy Butwell
7. Teddy Gardner
8. Norman Tennant
9. Henry Carpenter
10. Black Pico

slightly more than four years he held the light heavyweight title, Slapsie Maxie jammed in 107 bouts. For the most part, however, they were of the no-decision or overweight species, and Maxie's title was officially on the line only eight times.

Another light heavyweight, Battling Levinsky, also was a busy individual, but the first World War came along during his reign, and while he was working in a Bridgeport shipyard, he had little chance to fight as often as he had been accustomed. Levinsky held the title about the same length of time as Rosenbloom, and even with the war slowing down his pace, he managed to squeeze in 58 bouts. Had the blond Philadelphian travelled at his usual gait, he unquestionably would have beaten Rosenbloom's mark, for his normal tempo ranged from 30 to 40 bouts yearly. Levinsky, however, did not defend his laurels until Georges Carpentier hopped over from France to knock him out in Jersey City. Bat, a clever boxer, preferred fighting the slow-moving heavyweights, or, when he did meet anybody his own size, it was in either an overweight or no-decision affair.

Harry Greb was far and away the most active of the middleweight champions. In the 2½ years he bossed the 160-pounders, Pittsburgh's Flying Dutchman engaged in 56 bouts, seven of them for the title. Among his defenses was that riotous brawl with Mickey Walker at Yankee Stadium, considered one of the greatest fights ever seen in New York.

A remarkable character, Greb. The size of his opponents meant nothing to him. At his peak, he specialized in slamming heavyweights around. We recall one bout at Coney Island when he spotted 60



Kid Lewis (left) and Jack Britton (right), who fought each other 20 times, were the two most active welterweight titleholders in history. Britton defended the title eight times and Lewis 10 times over the course of their respective reigns, which lasted a combined seven years.

pounds to the giant Joe Cox, one of the original "white hopes," and for what he did to Cox he could have been charged with mayhem, assault, battery, and just about everything else in the book. As we recall it, Cox landed exactly one punch in the 10 rounds.

On another occasion, out in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Greb so thoroughly battered Bill Brennan, then one of the ranking heavyweights, that to save Brennan from a knockout, manager Leo P. Flynn cut one of Bill's gloves, necessitating time out while another mitt could be brought in. The respite saved Brennan from being flattened, but not from losing a one-sided decision.

Jack Britton rates as the busiest of the welterweight champions, with Ted (Kid) Lewis second and Ray Robinson third. Lewis, however, engaged in more title bouts than Britton, and both top Robinson in that department.

At the time the historic 20-bout feud started between Britton and Lewis, the welterweight laurels had been out of circulation for several years, since Mike "Twin" Sullivan outgrew the class. No more proficient ballyhooers ever came into this trade than Jimmy Johnston, managing Lewis, and Dan Morgan, handling Britton. They decided to revive the class.

Except for one short stretch, when Mike Glover sneaked into the scene, Lewis and Britton monopolized the title for four years, swapping it back and forth half a dozen times before Ted finally dropped out of the championship picture. Britton held on to the laurels another three years before he, too, was eliminated.

As closely as the available records can be checked, Britton, as champion, put together a total of 66 bouts, but only eight of them were for the title. Lewis' championship tenures embraced 51 outings, but 10 of them were for the big prize.

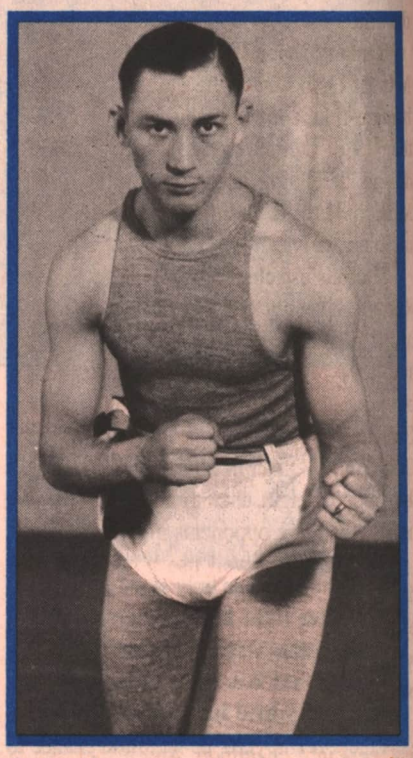
Since he whipped Tommy Bell for the vacant crown slightly more than four years ago, Ray Robinson has totalled 49 fights, but a dearth of outstanding talent in the class, plus his own difficulty in "making" the class limit any longer, has confined his championship appearances to five.

Benny Leonard, one of the all-time greats in the ring, was a real fighting champion among the lightweights. If he had kept going at his normal pace, and hadn't slowed down his schedule during the last two years of his brilliant seven-year reign, he would have hit, if not passed, the 100 mark in total bouts as champion. As it was, he finished with 84. And Benny didn't miss any of the top contenders. He gave 'em all a chance at him. In actual title matches, he totalled only four, but that was because there were few spots where decisions were permitted in his era, and professional boxing had died in California, long a popular center for lightweight title bouts.

Freddie Welsh, from whom Leonard lifted the title, was a busy champion for the less than three years he bossed the 135-pounders. Freddie put together 42 bouts, two of them officially for the laurels. Welsh, incidentally, earned one rare distinction—though he could have well done without it. He was the only champion who won a title and lost it without getting a cent for either incident.

The busiest and one of the best campaigners in the featherweight ranks was Abe Attell, who held the title for eight years and packed in 106 bouts, to place him only one behind the all-time leader, Maxie Rosenbloom, and four ahead in the title bout department. Attell, however, was champion twice as long as Rosenbloom.

But Willie Pep isn't listed far behind Attell in statistics. Willie was featherweight champion for nearly eight years, barring the one brief stretch between his first and second bouts with Sandy Saddler, and in that span he totalled 95 bouts, with



During his seven busy years as lightweight champion of the world, Benny Leonard fought 84 times, although his title was only at stake on four of those occasions.

THE RING, April 1951

Sugar Ray Robinson, seen here defending the middleweight title against Bobo Olson in October of 1950, is the busiest champion boxing has seen in recent years. He fought 19 times in 1950.

10 title defenses in the lot.

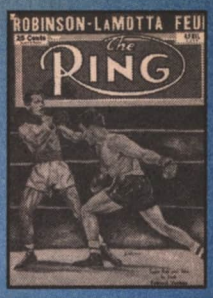
Considering the duration of his reign and the mileage covered, globe-trotting Freddie Miller was close to being the busiest champion of them all. Freddie was recognized as head man of the featherweights for 3½ years, but in that time he fought throughout the United States, made a jaunt or two to Mexico, another to Cuba, travelled to Europe to strut his stuff all over the British Isles and most of the Continent, and made two trips to South Africa. When he finally lost his laurels, his championship career had extended through 89 bouts, eight for the title.

Ranking second to Joe Louis for championship defenses is Manuel Ortiz. Over the eight-year stretch that he sported the bantam title, Manuel engaged in only 61 bouts, but in no less than 19 of them was he gambling his title. And he frequently did his defending in the other guy's backyard. Ortiz fought in Mexico, Hawaii, and the Philippines, and finally lost his laurels in South Africa.

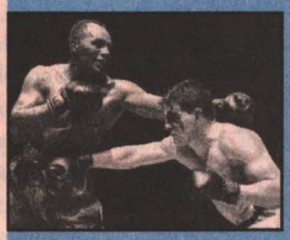
The busiest champion we have had in recent years is Ray Robinson. And 1950 was one of his busiest. Despite the press of his bar-and-grill, real estate, barber shop, laundry, and other activities in Harlem, Sugar Ray found time to engage in 19 bouts, including a defense of his welterweight title against Charlie Fusari in Jersey City, wins over Robert Villemain and Carl (Bobo) Olson in Philadelphia for Ox DaGrosa's version of the middleweight championship, and a jaunt to Europe, where he whipped five opponents in a month.

Boxing could well use a few more Ray Robinsons these days. Not necessarily Ray Robinsons in the flesh, for ringmen of his exceptional qualities don't happen often. But champions who at least will fight, and not tuck their talents away in mothballs.

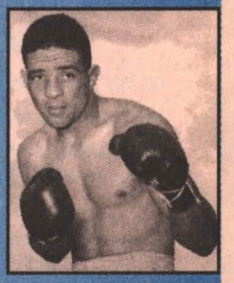
We've got hopes for two of them. One is Sandy Saddler, the featherweight champion. And if they can dig up enough opponents for him out of what is laughingly called the heavyweight division, the other is Ezzard Charles. "Fighting champions" have become all too scarce in the current sock market. ■



The Cover: The sixth and final battle between Sugar Ray Robinson and Jake LaMotta saw "The Bronx Bull" relinquish his world middleweight crown when Robinson stopped him in the 13th round. LaMotta had handed Robinson the first loss of his career in 1943, but Robinson won the other five battles in this historic feud.



Upset City: The editors of THE RING made their picks for boxing's biggest surprises, covering everything from Jim Corbett's knockout of John L. Sullivan in 1892 to 10-1 underdog Rex Layne's victory over Jersey Joe Walcott in 1950 (pictured). Other choices included Fritzie Zivic over Henry Armstrong, Max Schmeling's kayo of Joe Louis, and Willie Jackson stopping Johnny Dundee in one round.



The European Middleweight Crop: Many of the top contenders to the middleweight crown in 1951 hailed from Europe, prompting THE RING to examine the noteworthy history of top-notch middles from that continent. The era's current yield of middleweight stars included Frenchman Laurent Dauthuille and Britain's Randy Turpin (pictured).

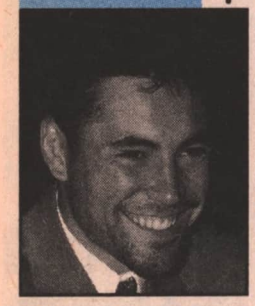
Welters Wage War: With the welterweight title vacated by Robinson, the top contenders jockeyed to position themselves for a shot at the crown. Among those in consideration for a title bout were Billy Graham and Kid Gavilan (pictured), who had already split two bouts. In May of 1951, the Cuban Gavilan would end up defeating Johnny Bratton to claim the title.

Fighter Of The Month: Ray Robinson became the first fighter since Henry Armstrong to hold world titles in two divisions simultaneously when he defeated LaMotta on February 14 for the middleweight championship. Robinson had to give up his welterweight title shortly thereafter, but that did not diminish from his impressive accomplishment and the dominant performance he turned in against LaMotta.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Nigel Collins

GOLDEN YEAR AHEAD FOR DE LA HOYA



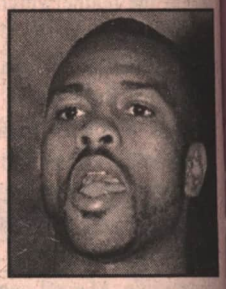
De La Hoya: Plenty to smile about

It's easy when you've got the horses, and in **Bob Arum's** case, a single blue-chip thoroughbred is more than enough. The Las Vegas-based promoter has so much faith in **Oscar De La Hoya**, he's already sketched out a full schedule of 1998 fights for the brightest star in Top Rank's stable.

"Muhammad Ali and Marvin Hagler were the only other two fighters I've worked with who I had enough confidence in to make such long-range plans," said an optimistic Arum several weeks prior to the WBC welterweight champion's title defense against **Wilfredo Rivera** in Atlantic City. "Oscar's going to have an HBO fight in February [against an opponent yet to be selected], and then fight **Terry Norris** on pay-per-view in late-May or early-June. He'll come back again in September against another major opponent, maybe the winner of **Ike Quartey-Pernell Whitaker**. Or maybe a rematch with **Julio Cesar Chavez**, if Julio can reestablish himself by beating **Miguel Angel Gonzalez**."

Arum also confirmed that "The Golden Boy" wants to honor his roots by fighting in Mexico sometime in '98, "maybe in September, but a lot depends on the weather." Another bout for De La Hoya is also penciled in for December. Looks like the only one busier than Oscar is going to be his accountant.

LISTEN UP



Jones: Overrates his value

As we go to press, it's anticipated that **Roy Jones** will relinquish the WBC light heavyweight title rather than fight mandatory challenger **Michael Nunn**. Not that Jones is afraid of Nunn. His problem is with the $1.8-million purse he would have received.

"I'm the best fighter in the world. What does a title mean?" said Jones.

Apparently, not much. But one man's refuse is another man's treasure, and it's expected that if the title becomes vacant, Nunn will fight the WBC's number-two contender, Germany's **Graciano Rocchigiani**, for the discarded crown.

Time Warner, which has an exclusive agreement to televise Jones' fights on HBO and TVKO, was not interested in broadcasting the Nunn fight, but gave Jones permission to take the fight, anyway. The relationship between the media giant and the fighter is currently at an all-time low.

"Right now, from a financial point of view, we're having a great deal of difficulty making a fight for Jones," said HBO Sports Vice President **Lou DiBella**. "He seems very confused. I just hope Roy and his team can get it together quickly."

DiBella is much more upbeat about the future of the cable giant's newest star, **Naseem Hamed**.

"Providing he gets past **Kevin Kelley** in December, and **Junior Jones** gets by **Kennedy McKinney** [on the same Madison Square Garden card], I want to make Naseem and Junior. But that won't be until the summer, because it's too big of a fight to put indoors. In between, Hamed might fight somebody like [WBA featherweight champion] **Wilfredo Vazquez**," said DiBella.

The folks at **Top Rank** are excited about bringing two new fighters into the fold. They are California heavyweight **Lamon Brewster**, 11-0 (11), and junior welter **Cory Spinks**, the 19-year-old son of the former heavyweight champion **Leon Spinks**.

"Three buses were chartered to take Cory's fans from St. Louis to Kansas City for his pro debut," said Top Rank publicist **Lee Samuels**. "He looked so good in the amateurs, everybody was after him, but he was signed by **Cameron Dunkin**, who works closely with us."

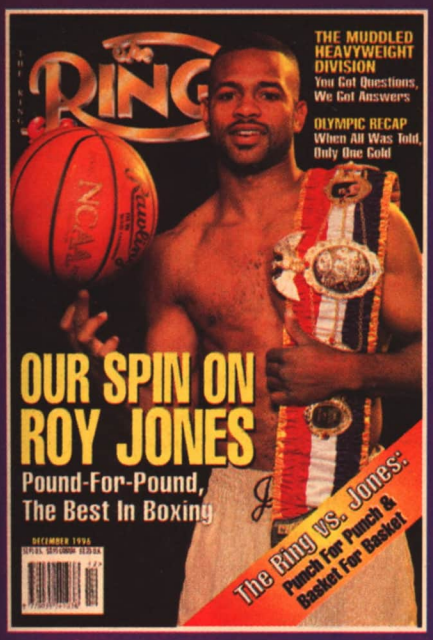
Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Naseem Hamed	Wilfredo Vazquez	3-1	Good test for Hamed. He should pass it
Oscar De La Hoya	Terry Norris	7-5	Great fight, great test, and a great win for Oscar
Arturo Gatti	Azumah Nelson	2½-1	Gatti has too much power and speed for the aging "Professor"
David Izon	Kirk Johnson	Pick-'em	Evenly matched prospects



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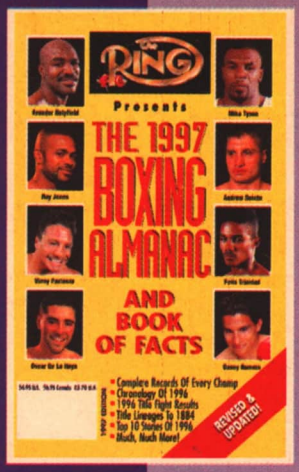

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